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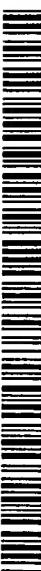
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**WO 02/14312 A1**

(54) Title: TETRAZOLYL-PHENYL ACETAMIDE GLUCOKINASE ACTIVATORS

(57) Abstract: Tetrazolyl-phenyl acetamides of formula (1) wherein Z is (2) one of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is (3) and the other is hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro lower alkyl, cyano, or nitro; R<sup>3</sup> is cycloalkyl; R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)-NHR<sup>6</sup> or a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom to the amide group, are active as glucokinase activators, and are able to increase insulin secretion, which makes them useful for treating type II diabetes.

Tetrazolyl-Phenyl Acetamide Glucokinase Activators

10       Glucokinase (GK) is one of four hexokinases found in mammals [Colowick, S.P., in *The Enzymes*, Vol. 9 (P. Boyer, ed.) Academic Press, New York, NY, pages 1-48, 1973]. The hexokinases catalyze the first step in the metabolism of glucose, i.e., the conversion of glucose to glucose-6-phosphate. Glucokinase has a limited cellular distribution, being found principally in pancreatic  $\beta$ -cells and liver parenchymal cells. In addition, GK is a rate-controlling enzyme for glucose metabolism in these two cell types that are known to play critical roles in whole-body glucose homeostasis [Chipkin, S.R., Kelly, K.L., and Ruderman, N.B. in *Joslin's Diabetes* (C.R. Kahn and G.C. Wier, eds.), Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, PA, pages 97-115, 1994]. The concentration of glucose at which GK demonstrates half-maximal activity is approximately 8 mM. The other three hexokinases are saturated with glucose at much lower concentrations (<1 mM). Therefore, the flux of glucose through the GK pathway rises as the concentration of glucose in the blood increases from fasting (5 mM) to postprandial ( $\approx$ 10-15 mM) levels following a carbohydrate-containing meal [Printz, R.G., Magnuson, M.A., and Granner, D.K. in *Ann. Rev. Nutrition* Vol. 13 (R.E. Olson, D.M. Bier, and D.B. McCormick, eds.), Annual Review, Inc., Palo Alto, CA, pages 463-496, 1993].

15       These findings contributed over a decade ago to the hypothesis that GK functions as a glucose sensor in  $\beta$ -cells and hepatocytes (Meglasson, M.D. and Matschinsky, F.M. *Amer. J. Physiol.* **246**, E1-E13, 1984). In recent years, studies in transgenic animals have confirmed that GK does indeed play a critical role in whole-body glucose homeostasis. Animals that do not express GK die within days of birth with severe diabetes while animals overexpressing

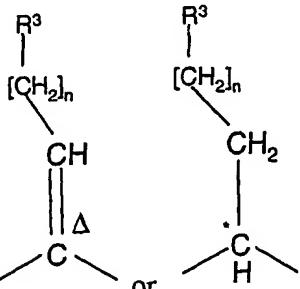
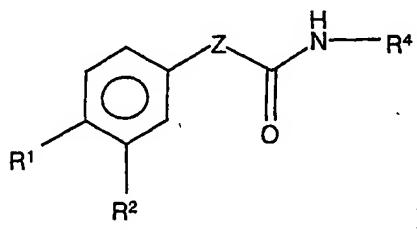
20       GK have improved glucose tolerance (Grupe, A., Hultgren, B., Ryan, A. et al., *Cell* **83**, 69-78, 1995; Ferrie, T., Riu, E., Bosch, F. et al., *FASEB J.*, **10**, 1213-1218, 1996). An increase in glucose exposure is coupled through GK in  $\beta$ -cells to increased insulin secretion and in hepatocytes to increased glycogen deposition and perhaps decreased glucose production.

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The finding that type II maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY-2) is caused by loss of function mutations in the GK gene suggests that GK also functions as a glucose sensor in humans (Liang, Y., Kesavan, P., Wang, L. et al., *Biochem. J.* 309, 167-173, 1995). Additional evidence supporting an important role for GK in the regulation of glucose metabolism in humans was provided by the identification of patients that express a mutant form of GK with increased enzymatic activity. These patients exhibit a fasting hypoglycemia associated with an inappropriately elevated level of plasma insulin (Glaser, B., Kesavan, P., Heyman, M. et al., *New England J. Med.* 338, 226-230, 1998). While mutations of the GK gene are not found in the majority of patients with type II diabetes, compounds that activate 5 GK and, thereby, increase the sensitivity of the GK sensor system will still be useful in the treatment of the hyperglycemia characteristic of all type II diabetes. Glucokinase activators will increase the flux of glucose metabolism in  $\beta$ -cells and hepatocytes, which will be coupled to increased insulin secretion. Such agents are useful for treating type II diabetes.

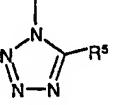
10 15 This invention provides a tetrazole selected from the group consisting of a compound of the formula:



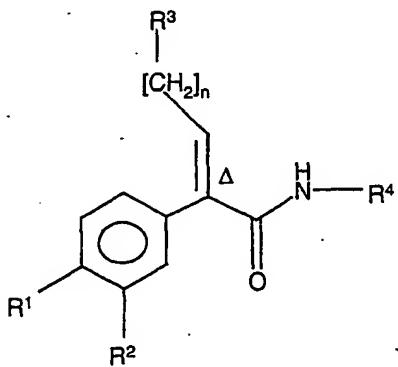
wherein Z is      or      ; one of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is      and the other is  
hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro lower alkyl, cyano, or nitro; R<sup>3</sup> is  
20 cycloalkyl; R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)—NHR<sup>6</sup> or a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by  
a ring carbon atom to the amide group shown, which heteroaromatic ring contains from 1 to  
3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen with a first

heteroatom being nitrogen adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom, said heteroaromatic ring being unsubstituted or monosubstituted with halogen at a position on a ring carbon atom other than that adjacent to said connecting carbon atom; n is 0 or 1; R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl, or perfluoro lower alkyl; R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts  
5 of the tetrazole.

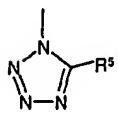
In one embodiment, the present invention relates to compounds of above formula I, wherein

one of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is  and the other is halogen, lower alkyl sulfonyl or perfluoro lower alkyl; R<sup>3</sup> is cycloalkyl; R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)—NHR<sup>6</sup> or a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom to the amide group shown, which heteroaromatic ring contains from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen with a first heteroatom being nitrogen adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom, said heteroaromatic ring being unsubstituted or monosubstituted with halogen at a position on a ring carbon atom other than that adjacent to said connecting carbon atom; n is 0 or 1; R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl, or perfluoro lower alkyl; R<sup>6</sup> is lower alkyl; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.  
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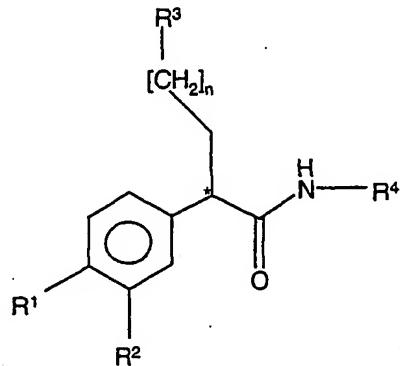
In another embodiment, this invention provides tetrazoles of formula I, comprising compounds of formulae I-A and I-B as follows:



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and n are as defined for above formula I, preferably wherein R<sup>1</sup> is



R<sup>2</sup> is halogen, perfluoro lower alkyl or lower alkyl sulfonyl, R<sup>3</sup> is cycloalkyl, R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)—NHR<sup>6</sup> or a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom to the amide group shown, which heteroaromatic ring contains from 1 to 3 heteroatoms  
5 selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen with a first heteroatom being nitrogen adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom, said heteroaromatic ring being unsubstituted or monosubstituted with halogen at a position on a ring carbon atom other than that adjacent to said connecting carbon atom, R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl or perfluoro lower alkyl, R<sup>6</sup> is lower alkyl and n is 0 or 1, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; and



10

I-B

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and n are as defined for above formula I, preferably wherein one of R<sup>1</sup>

or R<sup>2</sup> is

and the other is halogen, lower alkyl sulfonyl or perfluoro lower alkyl, R<sup>3</sup> is cycloalkyl, R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)—NHR<sup>6</sup> or a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom to the amide group shown, which heteroaromatic ring contains from 1  
15 to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen with a first heteroatom being nitrogen adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom, said heteroaromatic ring being unsubstituted or monosubstituted with halogen at a position on a ring carbon atom other than that adjacent to said connecting carbon atom, R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl or perfluoro lower alkyl, R<sup>6</sup> is lower alkyl and n is 0, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts  
20 thereof.

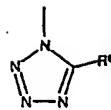
Formula I-A depicts the isomeric bond when it is not hydrogenated. Formula I-B depicts the bond when it is hydrogenated. Accordingly the  $\Delta$  denotes a trans configuration across the double bond in formula I-A, and the \* represents the asymmetric carbon atom in formula I-B. Tetrazoles which are compounds of formula I-B are preferably in the R configuration.

The compounds of formula IA or IB are glucokinase activators useful for increasing insulin secretion in the treatment of type II diabetes.

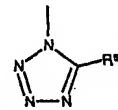
The present invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant. Furthermore, the present invention relates to the use of such compounds as therapeutic active substances as well as to their use for the preparation of medicaments for the treatment or prophylaxis of type II diabetes. The present invention further relates to processes for the preparation of the compounds of formula I. In addition, the present invention relates to a method for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of type II diabetes, which method comprises administering a compound of formula I to a human being or an animal.

One embodiment of formula I-A or of formula I-B is a tetrazole where  $R^4$  is a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom to the amide group shown, which heteroaromatic ring contains from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen with a first heteroatom being nitrogen adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom, said heteroaromatic ring being unsubstituted or monosubstituted with halogen at a position on a ring carbon atom other than that adjacent to said connecting carbon atom. Formula I-A1 represents this embodiment as a compound of formula I-A, and Formula I-B1 represents this embodiment as a compound of formula I-B.

Another embodiment of formula I-A or formula I-B is a tetrazole where  $R^4$  is  $-C(O)-NHR^6$  where  $R^6$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl. Formula I-A2 represents this embodiment as a compound of formula I-A. Formula I-B2 represents this embodiment as a compound of formula I-B.



In most tetrazoles of this invention, it is preferred that  $R^1$  be . It is also preferred that  $R^5$  be lower alkyl (such as methyl). It is further preferred that  $R^3$  be cyclopentyl, although cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl are also possible. When  $R^4$  is a six-membered heteroaromatic ring, it is preferably substituted or unsubstituted pyridine. When 5  $R^4$  is a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring, it is preferably substituted or unsubstituted thiazole. When substituted, either ring is preferably monosubstituted, and the preferred substituent is halogen such as bromo.  $R^2$  is preferably halogen (such as fluoro or chloro) or perfluoro lower alkyl (such as trifluoromethyl) and  $R^6$  is preferably methyl. Thus, a tetrazole of formula IA or IB may include any one or more of these conditions in any selected 10 combination. In addition, any one or more of these conditions may be applied to any tetrazole of this invention as described herein. For example, in any tetrazole of this invention with substituted pyridine, the preferred substituent is bromo.



In particular, in tetrazoles of formula I-A1,  $R^1$  is ,  $R^5$  is lower alkyl, and  $R^3$  is cyclopentyl (formula I-A1a). In one embodiment of formula I-A1a,  $R^4$  is a six-membered 15 heteroaromatic ring, in particular substituted or unsubstituted pyridine. In such a tetrazole,  $R^2$  may be halogen. An example is:

(E)-N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylamide.

20

In another embodiment of formula I-A1a,  $R^4$  is a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring, in particular substituted or unsubstituted thiazole. In such a tetrazole,  $R^2$  may be halogen or perfluoro lower alkyl, or  $R^2$  may be lower alkyl sulfonyl. Examples of the former tetrazoles are

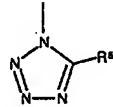
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(E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,

- (E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-but-2-enoic acid-thiazol-2-ylamide,
- (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide, and
- 5 (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide.

An example of the latter tetrazole is

- 10 (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-methanesulfonyl-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide.

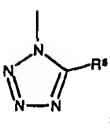


In another tetrazole of formula I-A1, R<sup>1</sup> is , R<sup>2</sup> is halogen and R<sup>4</sup> is substituted or unsubstituted thiazole. In these tetrazoles, R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl or perfluoro lower alkyl. R<sup>3</sup> may be cyclohexyl, as in

- 15 (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide, and
- (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide.

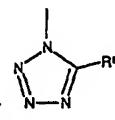
- 20 Or R<sup>3</sup> may be cycloheptyl, as in
- (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide, and
- (E)-N-(5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylamide.
- 25

This invention is also directed to tetrazoles of formula I-A2 (i.e. tetrazoles of formula I-A) where R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)—NHR<sup>6</sup> where R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or lower alkyl. In preferred such

tetrazoles, R<sup>1</sup> is  , R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl, R<sup>3</sup> is cyclopentyl, and R<sup>6</sup> is methyl, especially where R<sup>2</sup> is halogen. An example of such a tetrazole is

5 (E)-1-[3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl-acryloyl]3-methyl-urea.

This invention is also directed to tetrazoles of formula I-B, for example tetrazoles of formula I-B1 (where R<sup>4</sup> is a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring as described in detail

above). In such tetrazoles, R<sup>1</sup> is preferably  , R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl, and R<sup>3</sup> is cyclopentyl  
10 (formula I-B1a). In one embodiment of formula I-B1a, R<sup>4</sup> is a six-membered heteroaromatic ring, in particular substituted or unsubstituted pyridine. In such a tetrazole, R<sup>2</sup> may be halogen. Examples of such tetrazoles are

15 N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide, and

20 N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide.

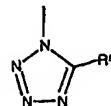
Alternatively, R<sup>2</sup> may be perfluoro lower alkyl, for example in  
20 N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionamide.

In another embodiment of formula I-B1a, R<sup>4</sup> is a 5-membered heteroaromatic ring, in  
25 particular substituted or unsubstituted thiazole. In such a tetrazole, R<sup>2</sup> may be halogen or perfluoro lower alkyl, or R<sup>2</sup> may be lower alkyl sulfonyl. Examples of these tetrazoles are

3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,

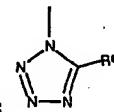
2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide, and

3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.



5 In another tetrazole of formula I-B1, R<sup>1</sup> is , R<sup>3</sup> is cyclohexyl and R<sup>4</sup> is substituted or unsubstituted thiazole. In these tetrazoles, R<sup>2</sup> is halogen. R<sup>5</sup> may be lower alkyl as in 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide or perfluoro lower alkyl as in 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

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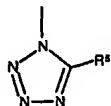


In any tetrazoles of this invention, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>1</sup> can be exchanged so that R<sup>2</sup> is , in particular certain tetrazoles of formula I-B1. In these tetrazoles, it is preferred that R<sup>1</sup> is lower alkyl sulfonyl, R<sup>4</sup> is substituted or unsubstituted thiazole, and R<sup>3</sup> is cyclopentyl. An example of such a tetrazole is

15

3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide.

This invention is also directed to tetrazoles of formula I-B2 (i.e. tetrazoles of formula I-B) where R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)-NHR<sup>6</sup> where R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen or lower alkyl. In such tetrazoles, it is

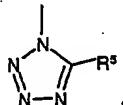


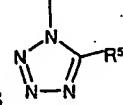
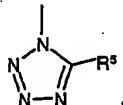
20 preferred that R<sup>1</sup> is , R<sup>3</sup> is cyclopentyl, R<sup>6</sup> is methyl, and R<sup>2</sup> is perfluoro lower alkyl or halogen. Examples of such tetrazoles are

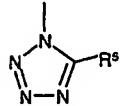
25 1-{3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionyl-3-methyl-urea, and

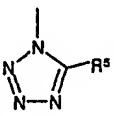
1-[2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionyl-3-methyl-urea.

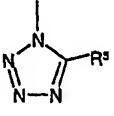
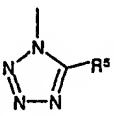
Preferable substituent R<sup>4</sup> in the compounds of formula I are -C(O)-NH-R<sup>6</sup>, thiazolyl  
 5 optionally substituted by halogen or pyridinyl optionally substituted by halogen. Preferable substituents R<sup>4</sup> in the compounds of formula I-A are thiazolyl, thiazolyl substituted by halogen and pyridinyl substituted by halogen. Preferable substituent R<sup>4</sup> in the compounds of formula I-B are thiazolyl and pyridinyl substituted by halogen. Preferable halogen substituent of the heteroaromatic ring R<sup>4</sup> is bromo.

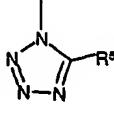
10 In the compounds of formula I, one of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is preferably  and the other is

  
 halogen, lower alkyl sulfonyl or perfluoro lower alkyl. More preferably R<sup>1</sup> is  or lower alkyl sulfonyl and R<sup>2</sup> is halogen, with fluoro and chloro being preferred, lower alkyl sulfonyl or perfluoro lower alkyl. In the compounds of formula I-A, R<sup>1</sup> is preferably

  
 and R<sup>2</sup> is preferably halogen, with fluoro and chloro being preferred, perfluoro  
 15 lower alkyl, with trifluoromethyl being preferred, or lower alkyl sulfonyl, with methylsulfonyl being preferred.

In the compounds of formula I-A, R<sup>1</sup> is preferably  or lower alkyl sulfonyl, with

  
 methylsulfonyl being preferred. Furthermore, if R<sup>1</sup> is , R<sup>2</sup> is preferably halogen, with fluoro and chloro being preferred, or perfluoro lower alkyl, with trifluoromethyl being

20 preferred. On the other hand, if R<sup>1</sup> is lower alkyl sulfonyl, R<sup>1</sup> is preferably 

In the compounds of formula I-A, preferable substituents R<sup>3</sup> are cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl. In the compounds of formula I-B, preferable substituents R<sup>3</sup> are cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl, preferably cyclopentyl.

- 5 Preferable substituents R<sup>5</sup> in the compounds of formula I are methyl and trifluoromethyl. In the compounds of formula I-B, methyl is especially preferred. Preferable substituent R<sup>6</sup> is methyl and n is preferably 0.

Preferred compounds in accordance with the present invention are selected from the  
10 group consisting of:

- (E)-N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylamide,  
15 (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,  
(E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-but-2-enoic acid-thiazol-2-ylamide,  
20 (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,  
(E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,  
25 (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-methanesulfonyl-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,  
(E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,  
(E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,  
30 (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,  
(E)-N-(5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylamide,

- (E)-1-{3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl-acryloyl]-3-methyl-urea,
- N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide,
- 5 N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide,
- N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionamide,
- 10 3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 15 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 20 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 1-{3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionyl}-3-methyl-urea, and
- 1-{2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionyl}-3-methyl-urea.
- 25 As used herein, the term "lower alkyl" means straight chain or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, preferably methyl and ethyl. As used herein, "cycloalkyl" means a saturated hydrocarbon ring having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms, preferably from 5 to 7 carbon atoms. As used herein, "perfluoro lower alkyl" means any lower alkyl group wherein all of the hydrogens of the lower alkyl

group are substituted or replaced by fluoro, such as trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, heptafluoropropyl, etc., with trifluoromethyl being preferred.

As used herein, "lower alkyl sulfonyl" means a lower alkyl group as defined above  
5 bound to the rest of the molecule through the sulfur atom in the sulfonyl group. Preferable lower alkyl sulfonyl is methylsulfonyl.

As used herein, the term "halogen" or "halo" unless otherwise stated designates all four halogens, i.e. fluorine, chlorine, bromine and iodine (fluoro, chloro, bromo, and iodo).

10

The heteroaromatic ring defined by R<sup>4</sup> is five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring (e.g. an aromatic ring having at least one heteroatom) which is connected by a ring carbon to the amide group shown in formula IA or formula IB. This ring has from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur. The nitrogen is found adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom. Preferred heteroaromatic rings include pyridinyl and thiazolyl. The rings may be unsubstituted, or mono-substituted with a halogen, preferably bromo, at a position on a ring carbon which is not adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom.

20

The term "trans" as used herein designates that the largest substituents attached across the double bond are on opposite sides of the double bond and have the "E" configuration. The term "cis" designates that the two largest substituents attached across the double bond are on the same side as the double bond.

25

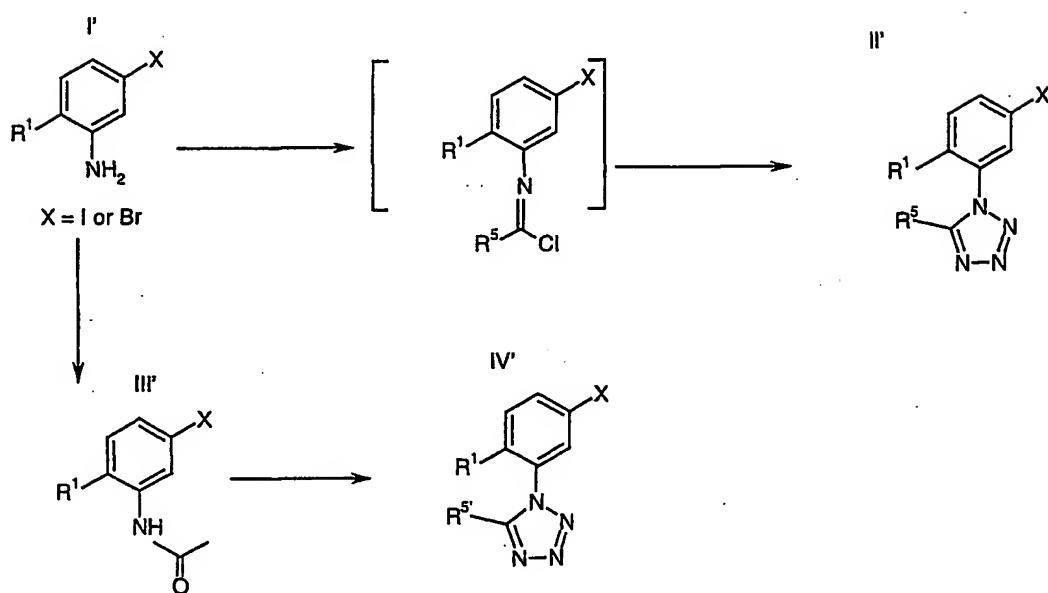
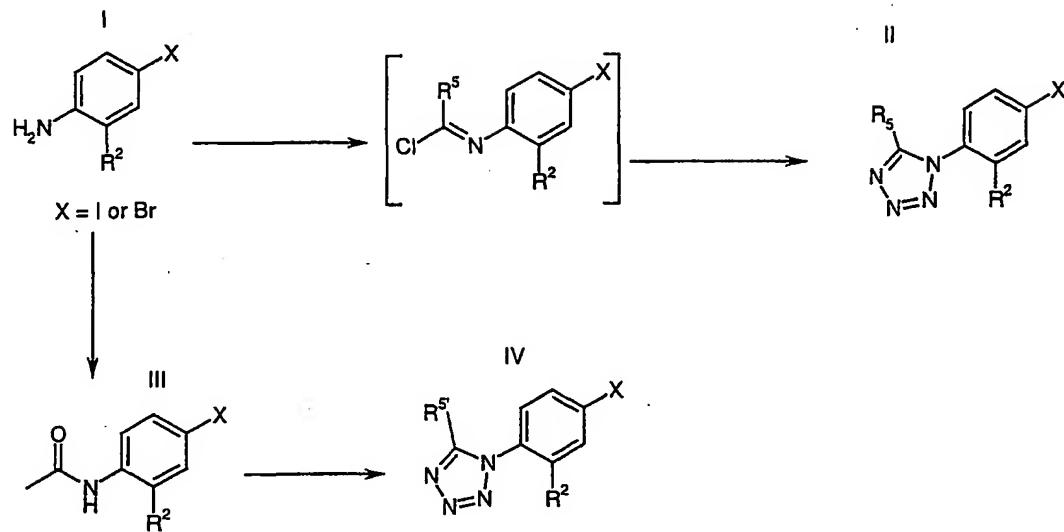
In the compounds of formula I-B, the "\*" designates the asymmetric carbon atom in the compounds with the R optical configuration being preferred. The compounds of formula I-B may be present in the R form or as a racemic or other mixture of compounds having the R and S optical configuration at the asymmetric carbon shown. The pure R enantiomers are preferred. As stated above, the compounds of this invention are useful as glucokinase activators for increasing insulin secretion for treatment of type II diabetes. Compounds of

formula I-A having the trans configuration across the double bond (represented by the Δ) have this glucokinase activity.

- The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" as used herein include any salt with
- 5 both inorganic or organic pharmaceutically acceptable acids such as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, citric acid, formic acid, maleic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, methanesulfonic acid, *para*-toluene sulfonic acid and the like. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salts" also includes any pharmaceutically acceptable base salt such as amine salts, trialkyl amine salts and the like.
- 10 Such salts can be formed quite readily by those skilled in the art using standard techniques.

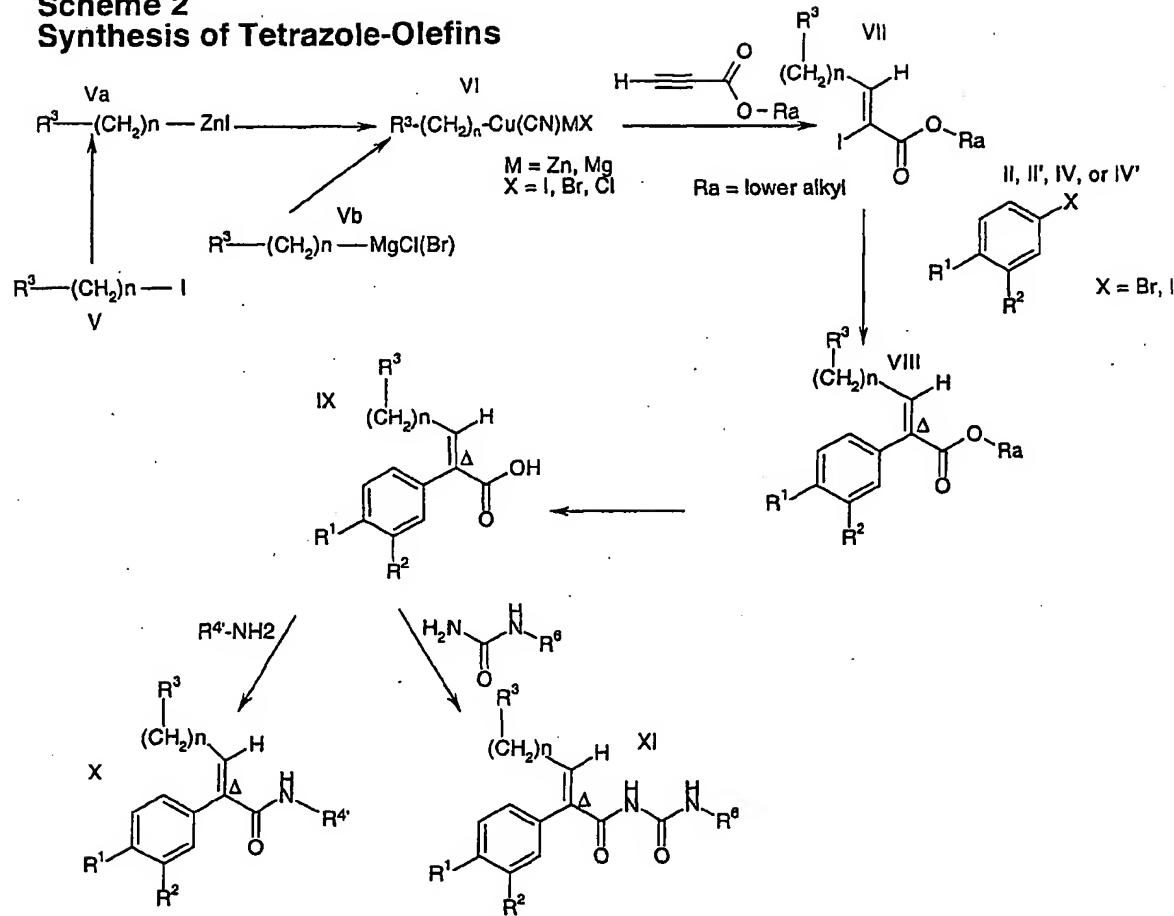
The three Schemes that follow demonstrate how to make tetrazoles of formulae IA or IB from known starting materials.

**Scheme 1**  
**Tetrazole Starting Materials**



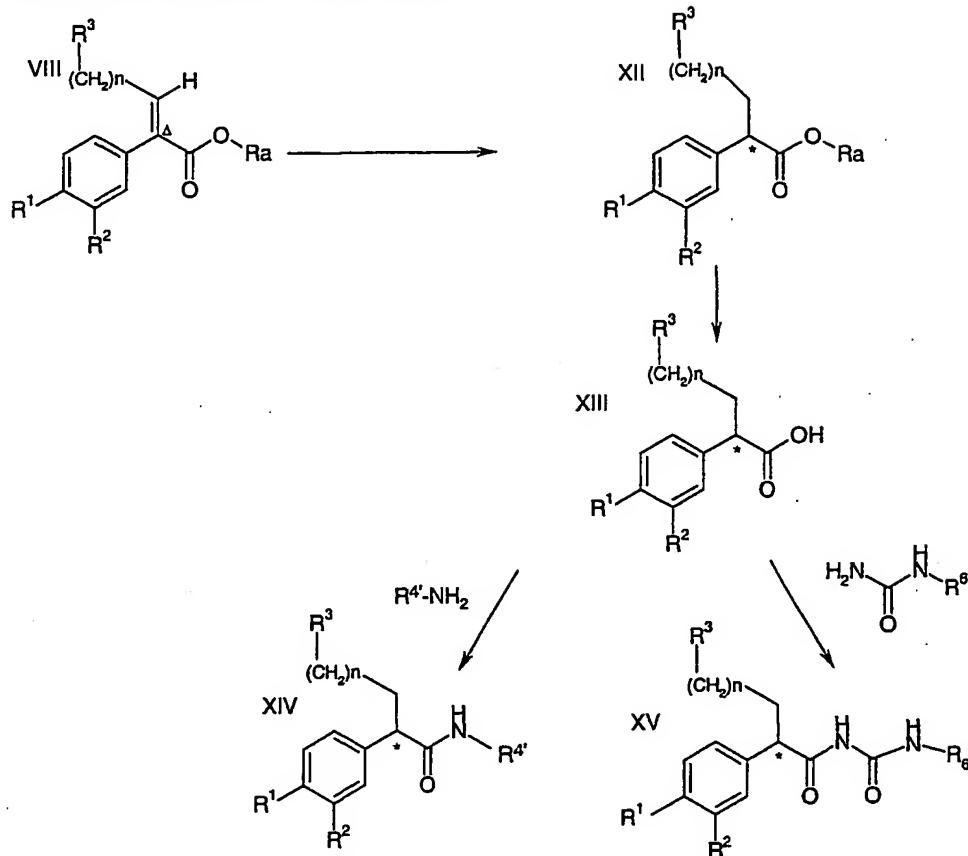
R5' is lower alkyl

**Scheme 2**  
**Synthesis of Tetrazole-Olefins**



$\text{R}^4'$  is a five or six -membered heteroaromatic ring  
as defined in formula I

**Scheme 3**  
**Synthesis of Racemic Tetrazoles**



$\text{R}^{4'}$  is a five or six -membered heteroaromatic ring  
as defined in formula I

$\text{R}^1, \text{R}^2, \text{R}^3, \text{R}^4, \text{R}^5$ , and  $n$  are as in formulae I-A and I-B. As shown in the Schemes, the  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  positions are interchangeable. Therefore the Schemes include and demonstrate the same reactions, intermediates, and compounds with the tetrazole or its precursors in the  $\text{R}^2$  position and the other  $\text{R}^1/\text{R}^2$  variables (hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro lower alkyl, cyano, or nitro) in the  $\text{R}^1$  position and *vice versa*.

The compounds of this invention are produced by reacting phenyl-substituted tetrazoles (II, II', IV, or IV') with cycloalkyl-substituted acrylic acid lower alkyl esters (VII) to obtain tetrazolyl-phenyl cycloalkyl propenoic ester (VIII), which is hydrolyzed or reduced and hydrolyzed to give the corresponding propenoic or acrylic acid (IX or XIII), to which is

added the desired heteroaromatic ring or urea/substituted urea to obtain a compound of formula I-A or formula I-B. The phenyl-substituted tetrazoles (II, II', IV, or IV') may be produced from the appropriate substituted anilines which are known and available materials or can be produced by a skilled person from known materials. The cycloalkyl-substituted  
5 acrylic acid lower alkyl esters may be produced from cycloalkyl halides, which are similarly known and available materials or can be produced by a skilled person from known materials. These reactions are discussed in more detail below.

- Scheme 1 shows how to obtain starting materials for compounds of this invention.
- 10 For compounds where R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl or perfluoro lower alkyl, substituted aniline I is reacted with lower alkyl or perfluoro lower alkyl carboxylic acid (corresponding to R<sup>5</sup>) using conventional methods for converting an amine to an imine, for example in a suspension of triphenylphosphine in carbon tetrachloride treated with an organic base such as triethylamine. Accordingly the reaction proceeds by way of an imidoyl halide (e.g. chloride) intermediate,  
15 which is reacted with an azide such as sodium azide as to obtain tetrazole II by conventional methods for tetrazole formation from an imidoyl chloride.

- For compounds of this invention where R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl, an alternate route is acylation of aniline I as described above to acetamide III under standard conditions (such as acetic anhydride in tetrahydrofuran), followed by reaction with an azide to obtain tetrazole IV by conventional methods for tetrazole formation from a lower alkyl amide.

- Aniline I where X is either iodo or bromo and either of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, nitro, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, thiol, and trifluoromethyl or where R<sup>1</sup> is thiomethyl or where R<sup>2</sup>  
25 is cyano, is known and commercially available, and may also be made by a skilled chemist from known materials. Other aniline I compounds may be made by a skilled chemist from known materials.

- For example aniline 1 where R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> lower alkyl sulfonyl can be made from  
30 aniline I where R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is thiol. The thiol is alkylated under standard conditions to provide the lower alkyl thio, which can then be oxidized to the corresponding lower alkyl sulfonyl.

Any conventional method of oxidizing alkyl thio substituents to sulfones can be used to effect this conversion.

Aniline I where R<sup>1</sup> is cyano (and X is bromo) can be made from aniline I where R<sup>1</sup> is 5 nitro and X is bromo by reducing the nitro to an amine by any conventional method, then diazotizing the amine to the corresponding diazonium salt, and reacting with a standard cyano group transferring agent to obtain aniline I where R<sup>1</sup> is cyano.

Aniline I where R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> are perfluoro lower alkyl can be made from the 10 corresponding halo compounds of formula VIII. Any conventional method for converting an aromatic halo group to a desired perfluoro lower alkyl group may be used (see for example, Katayama, T.; Umeno, M., *Chem. Lett.* 1991, 2073; Reddy, G. S.; Tam., *Organometallics*, 1984, 3, 630; Novak, J.; Salemink, C. A., *Synthesis*, 1983, 7, 597; Eapen, K. C.; Dua, S. S.; Tamboroski, C., *J. Org. Chem.* 1984, 49, 478; Chen, Q. -Y.; Duan, J. -X. *J. Chem. Soc. Chem. Comm.* 1993, 1389; Clark, J. H.; McClinton, M. A.; Jone, C. W.; Landon, P.; Bisohp, D.; Blade, R. J., *Tetrahedron Lett.* 1989, 2133; Powell, R. L.; Heaton, C. A., U. S. Pat. No. 15 5,113,013).

Aniline I where R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is iodo may be made from the corresponding nitro 20 compounds of formula VIII. The nitro is reduced to an amine and the amine is diazotized to the diazonium salt, which is then converted to the iodo compound by conventional methods (see for example Lucas, H.J. and Kennedy, E.R., *Org. Synth. Coll. Vol. II* 1943, 351).

For compounds of formula I-A, the above tetrazoles are coupled with acrylic acid 25 lower alkyl ester (VIII) to ultimately provide tetrazolyl-phenyl cycloalkyl propenoic acid IX to which may be coupled a heteroaromatic amine or a urea or lower alkyl urea to obtain a compound of formula I-A.

Scheme 2 shows how to obtain compounds of formula I-A in more detail. R<sup>3</sup> is 30 cycloalkyl. To obtain cycloalkyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester VII, organozinc reagent Va (obtained by conventional methods from commercially available iodide V) or commercially

available Grignard reagent Vb and soluble copper reagent is reacted with lower alkyl propiolate in a regio- and stereo-selective 1,4-conjugate addition to obtain a vinylcopper intermediate which upon iodonolysis under standard conditions produces VII where R<sup>3</sup> and the iodo substituent are in syn relationship to each other. The addition operates by way of a cycloalkyl copper cyano zinc or magnesium halide intermediate obtained by treating Va or Vb with copper cyanide and lithium chloride in an aprotic solvent such as tetrahydrofuran. Compound VII is then reacted with activated zinc metal (Knochel and Rao, Tetrahedron 49:29, 1993) to give a vinylzinc intermediate which may be coupled with either compound II or compound IV in the presence of a source of Pd(0) to give tetrazole-phenyl-cycloalkyl-acrylic acid methyl ester VIII with the phenyl-substituted tetrazole replacing the iodide to yield the trans orientation across the double bond.

Compound VIII is then hydrolyzed under standard alkaline conditions to the corresponding acid IX. Heterocyclic compound X may then be formed by coupling the desired heteroaromatic amine to compound IX under conventional conditions for adding an amine to an acid. Urea compound XI may be obtained by coupling urea or lower alkyl urea to compound IX under conventional conditions for converting an acid to a urea.

Compound VIII is the starting material for compounds of formula I-B. As shown in Scheme 3, these compounds may be obtained by reducing compound VIII to tetrazole-phenyl-cycloalkyl propanoic acid lower alkyl ester XII. This can be accomplished using conventional metal catalysts such as nickel in the presence of a reducing agent under standard conditions. Compound XII is then hydrolyzed under standard conditions to provide the corresponding acid XIII. Heterocyclic compound XIV may then be formed by coupling the desired heteroaromatic amine to compound XIII under conventional conditions for adding an amine to an acid. Urea compound XV may be obtained by coupling urea or lower alkyl urea to compound XIII under conventional conditions for converting an acid to a urea.

If it is desired to produce the R enantiomer of the compound of formula I-B free of the other enantiomers, the compound of formula XIII can be separated into this isomer from its racemate by any conventional chemical means. Among the preferred chemical means is

to react the compound of formula XIII with an optically active base. Any conventional optically active base can be utilized to carry out this resolution. Among the preferred optically active bases are the optically active amine bases such as alpha-methylbenzylamine, quinine, dehydroabietylamine and alpha-methylnaphthylamine. Any of the conventional techniques utilized in resolving organic acids with optically active organic amine bases can be utilized in carrying out this reaction.

In the resolution step, the compound of formula XIII is reacted with the optically active base in an inert organic solvent medium to produce salts of the optically active amine with both the R and S isomers of the compound of formula XIII. In the formation of these salts, temperatures and pressure are not critical and the salt formation can take place at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. The R and S salts can be separated by any conventional method such as fractional crystallization. After crystallization, each of the salts can be converted to the respective compounds of formula XIII in the R and S configuration by hydrolysis with an acid. Among the preferred acids are dilute aqueous acids, i.e., from about 0.001N to 2N aqueous acids, such as aqueous sulfuric or aqueous hydrochloric acid. By means of measuring the optical rotation of the optically pure crystallized acid of formula XIII, one can obtain the configuration of this crystalline material. If this crystallized acid has a negative rotation, then this crystallized acid has the R configuration. The configuration of formula XIII which is produced by this method of resolution is carried out throughout the entire reaction scheme to produce the desired R of formula IB. The separation of R and S isomers can also be achieved using an enzymatic ester hydrolysis of any lower alkyl esters corresponding to the compound of the formula XII (see, for example, Ahmar, M.; Girard, C.; Bloch, R., *Tetrahedron Lett.*, 1989, 7053), which results in the formation of corresponding chiral acid and chiral ester. The ester and the acid can be separated by any conventional method of separating an acid from an ester. The preferred method of resolution of racemates of the compounds of the formula XIII is via the formation of corresponding diastereomeric esters or amides. These diastereomeric esters or amides can be prepared by coupling the carboxylic acids of the formula XIII with a chiral alcohol or a chiral amine. This reaction can be carried out using any conventional method of coupling a carboxylic acid with an alcohol or an amine. The corresponding diastereomers of compounds of the formula XIII

can then be separated using any conventional separation methods. The resulting pure diastereomeric esters or amides can then be hydrolyzed to yield the corresponding pure R and S isomers. The hydrolysis reaction can be carried out using any conventional method to hydrolyze an ester or an amide without racemization.

5

All of the compounds of formula IA or formula IB described in the Examples activated glucokinase *in vitro* in accordance with the procedure described in the Biological Activity Example A.

10

The following compounds were tested and found to have excellent glucokinase activating activity *in vivo* when administered orally in accordance with the procedure described in the Biological Activity Example B:

- N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-  
15 propionamide,  
N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-  
trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionamide,  
3-Cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-  
propionamide,  
20 (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-  
acrylamide,  
(E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-  
yl-acrylamide,  
(E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-  
acrylamide,  
25 (E)-N-(5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-  
cycloheptyl-acrylamide,  
(E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-  
acrylamide, and  
30 (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-  
acrylamide.

On the basis of their capability of activating glucokinase, the compounds of above formula I can be used as medicaments for the treatment of type II diabetes. Therefore, as mentioned earlier, medicaments containing a compound of formula I are also an object of the 5 present invention, as is a process for the manufacture of such medicaments, which process comprises bringing one or more compounds of formula I and, if desired, one or more other therapeutically valuable substances into a galenical administration form, e.g. by combining a compound of formula I with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant.

The pharmaceutical compositions may be administered orally, for example in the 10 form of tablets, coated tablets, dragées, hard or soft gelatine capsules, solutions, emulsions or suspensions. Administration can also be carried out rectally, for example using suppositories; locally or percutaneously, for example using ointments, creams, gels or solutions; or parenterally, e.g. intravenously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intrathecally or transdermally, using for example injectable solutions. Furthermore, administration can be 15 carried out sublingually or as an aerosol, for example in the form of a spray. For the preparation of tablets, coated tablets, dragées or hard gelatine capsules the compounds of the present invention may be admixed with pharmaceutically inert, inorganic or organic excipients. Examples of suitable excipients for tablets, dragées or hard gelatine capsules include lactose, maize starch or derivatives thereof, talc or stearic acid or salts thereof. 20 Suitable excipients for use with soft gelatine capsules include for example vegetable oils, waxes, fats, semi-solid or liquid polyols etc.; according to the nature of the active ingredients it may however be the case that no excipient is needed at all for soft gelatine capsules. For the preparation of solutions and syrups, excipients which may be used include for example water, polyols, saccharose, invert sugar and glucose. For injectable solutions, excipients 25 which may be used include for example water, alcohols, polyols, glycerine, and vegetable oils. For suppositories, and local or percutaneous application, excipients which may be used include for example natural or hardened oils, waxes, fats and semi-solid or liquid polyols. The pharmaceutical compositions may also contain preserving agents, solubilising agents, stabilising agents, wetting agents, emulsifiers, sweeteners, colorants, odorants, salts for the 30 variation of osmotic pressure, buffers, coating agents or antioxidants. As mentioned earlier,

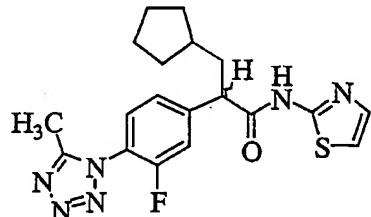
they may also contain other therapeutically valuable agents. It is a prerequisite that all adjuvants used in the manufacture of the preparations are non-toxic.

Preferred forms of use are intravenous, intramuscular or oral administration, most preferred is oral administration. The dosages in which the compounds of formula (I) are administered in effective amounts depend on the nature of the specific active ingredient, the age and the requirements of the patient and the mode of application. In general, dosages of about 1-100 mg/kg body weight per day come into consideration.

This invention will be better understood from the following examples, which are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to limit the invention defined in the claims that follow thereafter.

#### Example 1

**2-[4-[(5-methyl)-1-tetrazolyl]-3-fluoro phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl N-thiazol-2-yl propionamide**



A solution of 2-fluoro-4-iodoaniline (4.74 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (8.2 g, 80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at 0°C and then was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. After this time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a crude residue. The residue precipitated from diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes to afford N-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (5.12 g, 92%) as a white crystalline solid:

mp 152-154°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>FINO (M<sup>+</sup>) 278.9556, found 278.9559.

A suspension of N-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (5 g, 18.24 mmol) in acetonitrile (100 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium azide (3.56 g, 54.7 mmol). The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (13.6 g, 48 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was 5 stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL) and water (100 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride 10 solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (3.45 g, 62%) as a white solid: mp 122-124°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>FIN<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 303.9621, found 303.9615.

15 A mixture of zinc dust (650 mg, 10 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 20 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (prepared in Example 7, 2.21 g, 7.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL) over 3 min. The resulting reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL), and the 25 stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (90 mg, 0.16 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (160 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.52 g, 5 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The 30 resulting brick red solution was stirred at 25°C over the weekend and then heated at 40-45°C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous

ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.14 g, 68%) as a light yellow solid: mp 111-114°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 330.1492, found 330.1493.

A solution of nickel (II) chloride hexahydrate (115 mg, 0.24 mmol) and (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (400 mg, 1.21 mmol) in methanol (10 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium borohydride (275 mg, 3.63 mmol) in two portions. After the addition, the black reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 15 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was diluted with a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL) and ethyl acetate (50 mL). The two layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford racemic 3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionic acid methyl ester (400 mg, 99%) as a viscous oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 332.1648, found 332.1645.

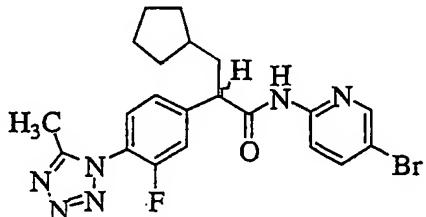
A solution of 3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionic acid methyl ester (400 mg, 1.2 mmol) in ethanol (8 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (2.5 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 5 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (40 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 50 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in*

*vacuo* to afford 3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionic acid (360 mg, 94%) as a yellow solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{16}H_{19}FN_4O_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 318.1487, found 318.1492.

5        A solution of triphenylphosphine (288 mg, 1.1 mmol) in methylene chloride (6 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (196 mg, 1.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with 3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionic acid (175 mg, 0.55 mmol). The clear solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred  
10      for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (275 mg, 2.75 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (25 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 25 mL). The combined  
15      organic extracts were successively washed with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mL), a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 2/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-  
20      N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide (80 mg, 36%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{19}H_{21}FN_6OS$  ( $M^+$ ) 400.1482, found 400.1476.

### Example 2

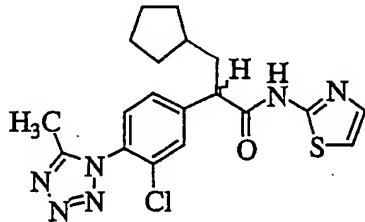
25      **N-(5-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide**



A solution of triphenylphosphine (288 mg, 1.1 mmol) in methylene chloride (6 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (196 mg, 1.1 mmol). The

reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with 3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionic acid (prepared in Example 1, 175 mg, 0.55 mmol). The clear solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-amino-5-bromopyridine (476 mg, 2.75 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 2/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded N-(5-bromopyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide (190 mg, 73%) as a white solid: mp 73-78°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>BrFN<sub>6</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>) 15 472.1022, found 472.1022.

**Example 3**  
**2-[3-Chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide**



20 A mixture of zinc dust (650 mg, 10 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. 25 The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (prepared in Example 7, 1.26 g, 4.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) over 3 min. The

reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (54 mg, 0.1 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (104 mg, 0.4 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (prepared in Example 4, 875 mg, 2.73 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was stirred at 25°C over the weekend and then heated at 40-45°C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 35 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (859 mg, 91%) as a light yellow semi-solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 346.1196, found 346.1190.

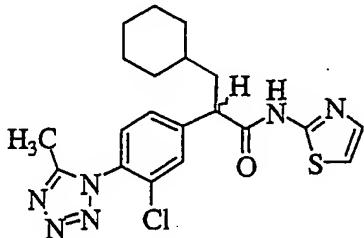
A solution of nickel (II) chloride hexahydrate (180 mg, 0.8 mmol) and (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (695 mg, 2.0 mmol) in methanol (15 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium borohydride (454 mg, 12 mmol) in five portions. After the addition, the black reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 d. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was diluted with a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (50 mL) and ethyl acetate (75 mL). The two layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford racemic 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionic acid methyl ester (815 mg, 99%) as a viscous oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 348.1353, found 348.1359.

A solution of 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionic acid methyl ester ester (690 mg, 2.0 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (4 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 3 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence  
5 of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 60 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride  
10 solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionic acid (604 mg, 90%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 334.1196, found 334.1193.

15 A solution of triphenylphosphine (236 mg, 0.9 mmol) in methylene chloride (6 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (160 mg, 0.9 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with the 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionic acid (151 mg, 0.45 mmol). The clear solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred  
20 for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (135 mg, 1.35 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 20 h at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 20 mL). The combined  
25 organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide (80 mg, 42%) as a  
30 white solid: mp 190-193°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 416.1186, found 416.1183.

**Example 4**

**2-[3-Chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide**



5

A mixture of zinc dust (16.34 g, 250 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (6 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (0.94 g, 5 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated.

- 10 The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (0.54 g, 5 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of cyclohexyl iodide (21 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL) over 15 min. During the addition, the temperature rose to 60°C. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 3 h at 40-45°C. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 25°C and diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (60 mL). The stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~3 h). In a separate reaction flask, a mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.95 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (110 mL) was stirred for 10 min at 25°C to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with the freshly prepared zinc solution using a syringe. After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.56 g, 90 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 15 h at -70°C to -50°C and then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.26 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (400 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (100 mL), and the

organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 250 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 500 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 500 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 9/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclohexyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (26.3 g, 99%) as a light pink oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 294.0117, found 294.0114.

A suspension of triphenylphosphine (11.7 g, 44.8 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (8 mL, 10 83 mmol) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with triethylamine (2.5 mL, 18 mmol) and acetic acid (1.15 mL, 20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then treated with a solution of 2-chloro-4-iodoaniline (5.07 g, 20 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (12 mL, heated to obtain a solution). The resulting light brown suspension was allowed to warm to 25°C and then it was refluxed overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C 15 and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting solid residue was then diluted with hexanes (50 mL) and methylene chloride (50 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the resulting residue was diluted with diethyl ether (100 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue 20 was again diluted with hexanes (100 mL), and the precipitated solid was collected by filtration. The filtrate was finally concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the imidoyl chloride intermediate (4.08 g) as a liquid. This crude imidoyl chloride intermediate (4.08 g, ~13 mmol) was treated with sodium azide (1.04 g, 16 mmol) and acetic acid (10 mL). The reaction was exothermic, and the resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 25°C. The 25 reaction mixture was then heated at 70°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of the imidoyl chloride intermediate. The cloudy yellow suspension was cooled to 25°C and then diluted with water (100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 75 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed successively with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a 30 saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica,

6/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (350 mg, 6%) as a white solid: mp 128-130.5°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_8H_6ClN_4$  ( $M^+$ ) 319.9327, found 319.9325.

5 A mixture of zinc dust (320 mg, 5 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (94 mg, 0.5 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (55 mg, 0.5 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclohexyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (588 mg, 2 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL). After the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 40-45°C and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)-palladium(0) (27 mg, 0.05 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (57 mg, 0.2 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (320.5 mg, 1 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 20 50°C for 15 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (30 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 4/1/1 25 hexanes/ethyl acetate/methylene chloride) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (233 mg, 64%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{18}H_{21}ClN_4O_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 360.1353, found 360.1354.

30 A solution of nickel (II) chloride hexahydrate (78 mg, 0.328 mmol) and (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (295 mg, 0.82 mmol) in methanol (8 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium borohydride

(186 mg, 4.92 mmol) in four portions. After the addition, the black reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 24 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was diluted with water (30 mL) and ethyl acetate (50 mL). The two layers were separated. The organic layer was 5 washed successively with a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mL), a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford racemic 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-propionic acid methyl ester (285 mg, 96%) as a viscous oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for 10  $C_{18}H_{23}ClN_4O_2 (M^+)$  362.1509, found 362.1516.

A solution of 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-propionic acid methyl ester (278 mg, 0.76 mmol) in ethanol (6 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (1.5 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 5 h, at which 15 time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol, and the residue was diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 40 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution. The resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). 20 The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-propionic acid (226 mg, 85%) as an amorphous solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{17}H_{21}ClN_4O_2 (M^+)$  348.1353, found 348.1354.

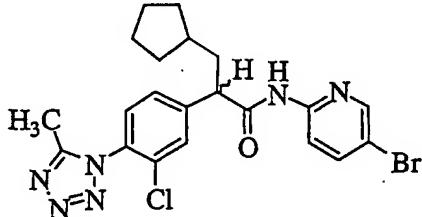
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A solution of triphenylphosphine (281 mg, 1.07 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (190.4 mg, 1.07 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-propionic acid (220 mg, 0.63 mmol) in 30 methylene chloride (4 mL). The clear solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then treated

with 2-aminothiazole (189 mg, 1.89 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 15 h at 25°C. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with 5 ethyl acetate (1 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide (79 mg, 29%) as an amorphous solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for 10 C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClN<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 430.1343, found 430.1343.

#### Example 5

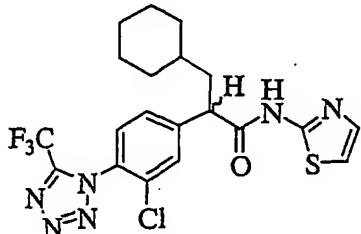
15 N-(5-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide



A solution of triphenylphosphine (236 mg, 0.9 mmol) in methylene chloride (6 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (160 mg, 0.9 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with the 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionic acid (prepared in Example 3, 151 mg, 0.45 mmol). The clear solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 20 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-amino-5-bromopyridine (234 mg, 1.35 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, 25 and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) and water (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50

mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 2/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionamide (90 mg, 42%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{21}H_{22}BrClN_6O$  ( $M^+$ )

5 489.0727, found 489.0727.

**Example 6****2-[3-Chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide**

5        A suspension of triphenylphosphine (13.11 g, 50 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (8 mL, 83 mmol) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with triethylamine (2.78 mL, 20 mmol) and trifluoroacetic acid (1.3 mL, 16.6 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then treated with a solution of 2-chloro-4-iodoaniline (5.07 g, 20 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (10 mL). The resulting light brown suspension was allowed to warm to 25°C

10      and then it was refluxed overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting solid residue was then diluted with hexanes (50 mL) and methylene chloride (50 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the resulting residue was diluted with diethyl ether (100 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and

15      washed with hexanes, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was again diluted with hexanes (100 mL), and the precipitated solid was collected by filtration. The filtrate was finally concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the imidoyl chloride intermediate (5.88 g) as a brown liquid. This crude imidoyl chloride intermediate (5.88 g, ~16 mmol) was treated with sodium azide (1.04 g, 16 mmol) and acetic acid (10 mL). The resulting reaction

20      mixture was then heated at 70°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of the imidoyl chloride intermediate. The cloudy yellow suspension was cooled to 25°C and then diluted with water (100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 75 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed successively with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a

25      saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 8/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-

tetrazole (5.2 g, 69%) as a light yellow solid: mp 71-73°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_8H_3ClF_3IN_4 (M^+)$  373.9043, found 373.9044.

A mixture of zinc dust (650 mg, 10 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (110 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclohexyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (prepared in Example 4, 1.32 g, 4.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) over 5 min. After the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 40-45°C and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (54 mg, 0.1 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (104 mg, 0.4 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (8 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-tetrazole (1.12 g, 3 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 50°C for 15 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (70 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 6/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (908 mg, 73%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{18}H_{18}ClF_3N_4O_2 (M^+)$  414.1070, found 414.1075.

A solution of nickel (II) chloride hexahydrate (77 mg, 0.324 mmol) and (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (674 mg, 1.62 mmol) in methanol (15 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium

borohydride (184 mg, 4.86 mmol) in four portions. After the addition, the black reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 20 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was diluted with water (50 mL) and ethyl acetate (100 mL). The two layers were separated. The organic layer was washed successively with a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mL), a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford racemic 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-propionic acid methyl ester (640 mg, 95%) as a viscous oil: EI-HRMS 5 m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 416.1527, found 416.1529.

10

A solution of 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-propionic acid methyl ester (634 mg, 1.52 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (3 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 5 h, at 15 which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol, and the residue was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 60 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution. The resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). 20 The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-propionic acid (375 mg, 61%) as a viscous oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 402.1070, found 402.1067.

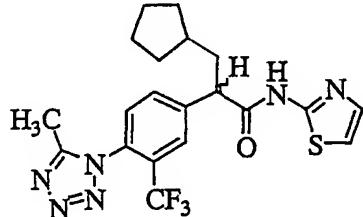
25

A solution of triphenylphosphine (409 mg, 1.56 mmol) in methylene chloride (8 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (277 mg, 1.56 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-propionic acid (370 mg, 0.92 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL). The clear solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then

treated with 2-aminothiazole (276 mg, 2.76 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 15 h at 25°C. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 3/2 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide (83 mg, 18%) as an amorphous solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>20</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 484.1060, found 484.1068.

#### Example 7

15      **3-Cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide**



A solution of 2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-bromoaniline (4.8 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (8.2 g, 80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude residue precipitated from diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes to afford N-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetamide (5.07 g, 90%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>NO (M<sup>+</sup>) 281.8352, found 281.8348.

A suspension of N-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetamide (2.41 g, 8.54 mmol) in acetonitrile (40 mL) was treated with methylene chloride (5 mL) to obtain a clear solution at 25°C. The resulting solution was treated with sodium azide (1.24 g, 19.1 mmol), and the reaction mixture was then cooled to 0°C. The reaction mixture was then treated with 5 trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (3.59 g, 12.7 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous 10 layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 2/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.85 g, 70%) as a white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for 15 C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 305.9728, found 305.9733.

A mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was 20 then cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with a 2.0M solution of cyclopentylmagnesium chloride in diethyl ether (55 mL, 110 mmol). After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -30°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.99 g, 95 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at -60°C to -50°C. The reaction mixture 25 was then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (200 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). The combined 30

organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 300 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL). The organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 20/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (25.8 g, 97%) as a yellow oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 279.9960, found 279.9961.

A mixture of zinc dust (710 mg, 11 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol).

10 The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.54 g, 5.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) over 3 min. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (81 mg, 0.15 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (156 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (6 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.05 g, 3.5 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 40-45°C over the weekend. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 35 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.03 g, 77.6%) as a light yellow solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 380.1460, found 380.1453.

A solution of nickel (II) chloride hexahydrate (102 mg, 0.428 mmol) and (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (814 mg, 2.14 mmol) in methanol (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium borohydride (265 mg, 7 mmol) in five portions. After the addition, the black reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 15 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was diluted with a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (50 mL) and ethyl acetate (75 mL). The two layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford racemic 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionic acid methyl ester (815 mg, 99%) as a viscous oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 382.1617, found 382.1617.

15 A solution of 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionic acid methyl ester (870 mg, 2.27 mmol) in ethanol (12 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (8 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 3 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The 20 residue was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 60 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionic acid (781 mg, 93%) as a white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 368.1460, found 368.1460.

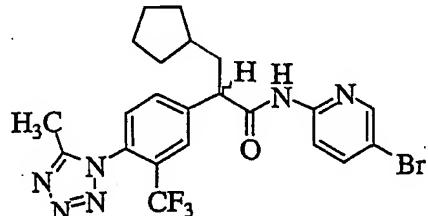
30 A solution of triphenylphosphine (213 mg, 0.84 mmol) in methylene chloride (12 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (144 mg, 0.84 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with the 3-cyclopentyl-2-

[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionic acid (150 mg, 0.4 mmol). The clear solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (122 mg, 1.22 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 15 h at 25°C. The reaction mixture 5 was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 10 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 1/2 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide (128 mg, 70%) as an amorphous solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 450.1449, found 450.1454.

15

**Example 8**

**N-(5-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionamide**



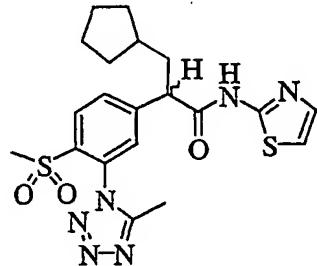
20 A solution of triphenylphosphine (213 mg, 0.84 mmol) in methylene chloride (12 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (144 mg, 0.84 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with the 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionic acid (prepared in Example 7, 150 mg, 0.4 mmol). The clear solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to 25 warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-amino-5-bromopyridine (122 mg, 1.22 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 15 h at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) and water (30 mL). The two

layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionamide (90 mg, 42%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>22</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O (M<sup>+</sup>) 522.0991, found 522.0989.

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**Example 9**

**3-Cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide**



15

A solution of isoamyl nitrite (10.05 mL, 75 mmol) in dimethyl disulfide (49.5 mL, 550 mmol) at 25°C was slowly treated with 4-bromo-2-nitroaniline (10.85 g, 50 mmol). The reaction was exothermic with gas evolution. The resulting brown reaction mixture was heated to 80-90°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (300 mL). The organic layer was washed successively with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 300 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 6/1 to 5/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 4-bromo-1-methylsulfanyl-2-nitro-benzene (12.05 g, 97%) as a brown solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 246.9372, found 246.9368.

A solution of 4-bromo-1-methylsulfanyl-2-nitro-benzene (12.05 g, 48.6 mmol) in methylene chloride (300 mL) was cooled to -10°C and then treated with 3-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (86% grade, 25.2 g, 145.8 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at -10°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. At 5 this time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (300 mL). The organic layer was washed successively with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (4 x 200 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, 10 and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a yellow solid. Recrystallization from hot ethanol (50 mL) and acetonitrile (10 mL) followed by dilution with hexanes (300 mL) to obtain a precipitate. The solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes (100 mL) to afford 4-bromo-1-methanesulfonyl-2-nitro-benzene (8.68 g, 62%) as a white solid: mp 175.5-177°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrNO<sub>4</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 278.9201, found 278.9210.

15

A light brown suspension of 4-bromo-1-methanesulfonyl-2-nitro-benzene (8.65 g, 30.9 mmol) in methanol (300 mL, not completely dissolved in methanol even at hot condition) was treated sequentially with ammonium chloride (24.8 g, 463.5 mmol), zinc dust (20.2 g, 309 mmol), and water (100 mL). Initially, the reaction was exothermic, and the 20 brown color disappeared. The reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then filtered, and the residue was washed with methanol (50 mL) and ethyl acetate (100 mL). The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 200 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 8/1 to 6/1 to 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 5-bromo-2-methanesulfonyl-phenylamine (5.7 g, 74%) as a white solid: mp 107-109°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>7</sub>H<sub>8</sub>BrNO<sub>2</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 248.9459, found 248.9451.

30

A solution of 5-bromo-2-methanesulfonyl-phenylamine (5.7 g, 19.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL) at 25°C was treated with acetyl chloride (6.28 g, 80 mmol). The

resulting solution was stirred overnight at 25°C, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then diluted with water (100 mL) and ethyl acetate (100 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 100 mL). The 5 combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 200 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a brown solid. The brown solid was treated with diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The white solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes (50 mL) to afford N-(5-bromo-2-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-acetamide (4.55 g, 80%) as a white solid: mp 157-160°C; 10 EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>10</sub>BrNO<sub>3</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 290.9565, found 290.9560.

A solution of N-(5-bromo-2-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-acetamide (350 mg, 1.2 mmol) in acetonitrile (6 mL) at 25°C was treated with sodium azide (78 mg, 1.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C and then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (0.24 mL, 1.2 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*: Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 8/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(5-bromo-2-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (254 mg, 67%) as a white solid: mp 174-184°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for 25 C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 315.9630, found 315.9634.

A mixture of zinc dust (330 mg, 5 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (93 mg, 0.5 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and 30 heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (54 mg, 0.5

mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (prepared in Example 7, 420 mg, 1.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL). The resulting reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The 5 reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (27 mg, 0.05 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (52 mg, 0.2 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(5-bromo-2-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (237 mg, 0.75 10 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 40-45°C over the weekend. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (30 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried 15 over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 3/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (266 mg, 91%) as a white solid: mp 164-166°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 390.1362, found 390.1368.

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A solution of nickel (II) chloride hexahydrate (12.2 mg, 0.05 mmol) and (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (100 mg, 0.26 mmol) in methanol (5 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium borohydride (29 mg, 0.77 mmol). After the addition, the black reaction mixture was 25 stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 15 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was diluted with a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (10 mL) and ethyl acetate (25 mL). The two layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 25 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to 30 afford racemic 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-

propionic acid methyl ester (105 mg, 99%) as a viscous oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{18}H_{24}N_4O_4S (M^+)$  392.1518, found 392.1526.

A solution of 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionic acid methyl ester (102 mg, 0.26 mmol) in ethanol (3 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (0.6 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 5 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 30 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 25 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionic acid (88 mg, 89%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{17}H_{22}N_4O_4S (M^+)$  378.1362, found 378.1364.

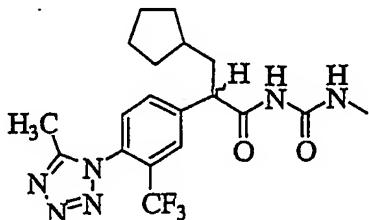
A solution of triphenylphosphine (100 mg, 0.38 mmol) in methylene chloride (3 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (68 mg, 0.38 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionic acid (85 mg, 0.22 mmol) in methylene chloride (3 mL). The clear solution was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (55 mg, 0.55 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (25 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mL), a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in*

*vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 2/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide (42 mg, 41%) as a white solid: mp 148-154°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 460.1351, found 460.1356.

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#### Example 10

#### 1-{3-Cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionyl}-3-methyl-urea



10 A solution of 2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-bromoaniline (4.8 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (8.2 g, 80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material.

15 The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude residue precipitated from diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solid was collected by filtrated and washed with hexanes to afford N-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetamide (5.07 g, 90%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>NO (M<sup>+</sup>) 281.8352, found 281.8348.

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A suspension of N-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetamide (2.41 g, 8.54 mmol) in acetonitrile (40 mL) was treated with methylene chloride (5 mL) to obtain a clear solution at 25°C. The resulting solution was treated with sodium azide (1.24 g, 19.1 mmol), and the reaction mixture was then cooled to 0°C. The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (3.59 g, 12.7 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with

ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 2/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.85 g, 70%) as a white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 305.9728, found 305.9733.

A mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with a 2.0M solution of cyclopentylmagnesium chloride in diethyl ether (55 mL, 110 mmol). After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -30°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.99 g, 95 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at -60°C to -50°C. The reaction mixture was then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (200 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 300 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL). The organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 20/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (25.8 g, 97%) as a yellow oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 279.9960, found 279.9961.

A mixture of zinc dust (710 mg, 11 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol).

The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then 5 treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.54 g, 5.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) over 3 min. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, 10 bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (81 mg, 0.15 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (156 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (6 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.05 g, 3.5 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 40-45°C over the weekend. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then 15 poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 35 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3- 20 cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.03 g, 77.6%) as a light yellow solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 380.1460, found 380.1453.

A solution of nickel (II) chloride hexahydrate (102 mg, 0.428 mmol) and (E)-3- 25 cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (814 mg, 2.14 mmol) in methanol (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium borohydride (265 mg, 7 mmol) in five portions. After the addition, the black reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 15 h. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was diluted with a 30 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (50 mL) and ethyl acetate (75 mL). The two layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride

solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford racemic 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionic acid methyl ester (815 mg, 99%) as a viscous oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 382.1617, found 382.1617.

5

A solution of 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionic acid methyl ester (870 mg, 2.27 mmol) in ethanol (12 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (8 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 3 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence 10 of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 60 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride 15 solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionic acid (781 mg, 93%) as a white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 368.1460, found 368.1460.

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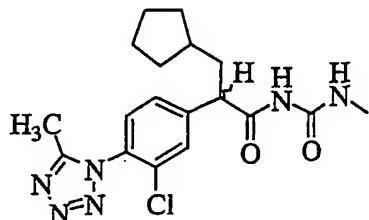
A solution of 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionic acid (368 mg, 1.0 mmol) in fluorobenzene (1.5 mL) and *N,N*-dimethylformamide (6 μL) at 25°C was treated dropwise with oxalyl chloride (107.7 μL, 1.21 mmol) over 2-3 min. The clear solution was stirred for 1 h at 25°C and then treated with methyl urea (322 mg, 2.0 mmol). The resulting suspension was heated at 70°C (bath temperature) for 10 min 25 and then treated with pyridine (162 μL, 2.0 mmol). The reaction mixture was then stirred at 70°C for 20 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 25°C and diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) and a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate 30 solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage

chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 1/1 to 1/2 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-{3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionyl}-3-methyl-urea (338 mg, 80%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 424.1834, found 424.1833.

5

**Example 11**

**1-{2-[3-Chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionyl}-3-methyl-urea**



10 A suspension of triphenylphosphine (11.7 g, 44.8 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (8 mL, 83 mmol) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with triethylamine (2.5 mL, 18 mmol) and acetic acid (1.15 mL, 20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then treated with a solution of 2-chloro-4-iodoaniline (5.07 g, 20 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (12 mL, heated to obtain a solution). The resulting light brown suspension was allowed to warm to 25°C and then it was refluxed overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting solid residue was then diluted with hexanes (50 mL) and methylene chloride (50 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the resulting residue was diluted with diethyl ether (100 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was again diluted with hexanes (100 mL), and the precipitated solid was collected by filtration. The filtrate was finally concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the imidoyl chloride intermediate (4.08 g) as a liquid. This crude imidoyl chloride intermediate (4.08 g, ~13 mmol) was treated with sodium azide (1.04 g, 16 mmol) and acetic acid (10 mL). The reaction was exothermic, and the resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then heated at 70°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of the imidoyl chloride intermediate. The cloudy yellow suspension was cooled to 25°C and then diluted with water (100 mL) and

extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 75 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed successively with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 5 6/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (350 mg, 6%) as a white solid: mp 128-130.5°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>ClIN<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 319.9327, found 319.9325.

A mixture of zinc dust (650 mg, 10 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (prepared in Example 10, 1.26 g, 4.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) over 3 min. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, 15 bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (54 mg, 0.1 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (104 mg, 0.4 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (875 mg, 2.73 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was stirred at 25°C over the weekend and then heated at 40-45°C for 4 h. The reaction mixture 20 was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 35 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) 25 afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-acrylic acid 30

methyl ester (859 mg, 91%) as a light yellow semi-solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{17}H_{19}ClN_4O_2 (M^+)$  346.1196, found 346.1190.

A solution of nickel (II) chloride hexahydrate (180 mg, 0.8 mmol) and (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (695 mg, 2.0 mmol) in methanol (15 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium borohydride (454 mg, 12 mmol) in five portions. After the addition, the black reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 d. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was diluted with a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (50 mL) and ethyl acetate (75 mL). The two layers were separated. The organic layer was washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford racemic 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionic acid methyl ester (815 mg, 99%) as a viscous oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{17}H_{21}ClN_4O_2 (M^+)$  348.1353, found 348.1359.

A solution of 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionic acid methyl ester (690 mg, 2.0 mmol) in ethanol (20 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (4 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 3 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 60 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionic acid (604 mg, 90%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{16}H_{19}ClN_4O_2 (M^+)$  334.1196, found 334.1193.

A solution of 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionic acid (303 mg, 0.9 mmol) in fluorobenzene (1 mL) and *N,N*-dimethylformamide (3  $\mu$ L) at 25°C was treated dropwise with oxalyl chloride (97  $\mu$ L, 1.09 mmol) over 2-3 min. The clear solution was stirred at 25°C for 1 h and then treated with methyl urea (201 mg, 2.72 mmol).

5 The resulting suspension was heated at 70°C (bath temperature) for 10 min and then treated with pyridine (146.6  $\mu$ L, 1.81 mmol). The reaction mixture was then stirred at 70°C for 20 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 25°C and diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) and a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts

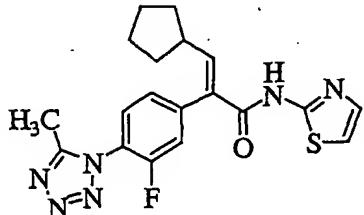
10 were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-{2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionyl}-3-methyl-urea (110 mg, 31%) as a white solid: mp 185-

15 186°C. EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClN<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 391.1649, found 391.1659.

### Example 12

#### (E)-3-Cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide

20



A solution of 2-fluoro-4-iodoaniline (4.74 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (8.2 g, 80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at 0°C and then was allowed to warm to 25°C where

25 it was stirred for 2 h. After this time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a crude residue. The residue precipitated from diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes

to afford N-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (5.12 g, 92%) as a white crystalline solid: mp 152-154°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>FINO (M<sup>+</sup>) 278.9556, found 278.9559.

A suspension of N-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (5.00 g, 18.24 mmol) in 5 acetonitrile (100 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium azide (3.56 g, 54.7 mmol). The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (13.6 g, 48 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in* 10 *vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL) and water (100 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in* 15 *vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (3.45 g, 62%) as a white solid: mp 122-124°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>FIN<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 303.9621, found 303.9615.

A mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high 20 vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with a 2.0M solution of cyclopentylmagnesium chloride in diethyl ether (55 mL, 110 mmol). After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -30°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.99 g, 95 25 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at -60°C to -50°C. The reaction mixture was then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a 30 saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (200 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (50

mL), and the organic compound was extracted into diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 300 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL). The organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 20/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (25.8 g, 97%) as a yellow oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 279.9960, found 279.9961.

A mixture of zinc dust (650 mg, 10 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (2.21 g, 7.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL) over 3 min. The resulting reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (90 mg, 0.16 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (160 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.52 g, 5 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was stirred at 25°C over the weekend and then heated at 40-45°C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid

methyl ester (1.14 g, 68%) as a light yellow solid: mp 111-114°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{17}H_{19}FN_4O_2 (M^+)$  330.1492, found 330.1493.

A solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (720 mg, 2.18 mmol) in ethanol (15 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (5 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (30 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 50 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (690 mg, 100%) as a white solid: mp 182-185°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{16}H_{17}FN_4O_2 (M^+)$  316.1336, found 316.1334.

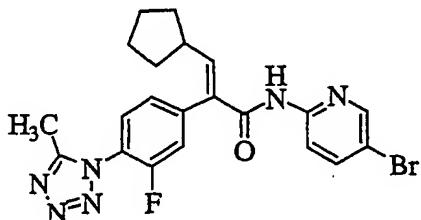
A solution of triphenylphosphine (262 mg, 1 mmol) in methylene chloride (6 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (178 mg, 1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (158 mg, 0.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (150 mg, 1.5 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mL), a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica,

1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide (39 mg, 20%) as a white solid: mp 158-162°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{19}H_{19}FN_6OS$  ( $M^+$ ) 398.1325, found 398.1323.

5

**Example 13**

(E)-N-(5-Bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylamide



A solution of 2-fluoro-4-iodoaniline (4.74 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (8.2 g, 80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at 0°C and then was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. After this time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a crude residue. The residue precipitated from diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes to afford N-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (5.12 g, 92%) as a white crystalline solid: mp 152-154°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_8H_7FINO$  ( $M^+$ ) 278.9556, found 278.9559.

A suspension of N-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (5.00 g, 18.24 mmol) in acetonitrile (100 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium azide (3.56 g, 54.7 mmol). The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (13.6 g, 48 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL) and water (100 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in*

*vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (3.45 g, 62%) as a white solid: mp 122-124°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_8H_6FIN_4$  ( $M^+$ ) 303.9621, found 303.9615.

5        A mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with a 2.0M solution of cyclopentylmagnesium chloride in diethyl ether (55 mL, 110 mmol). After the addition, the reaction mixture was  
10      allowed to warm to -30°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.99 g, 95 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at -60°C to -50°C. The reaction mixture was then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution,  
15      the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (200 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate  
20      solution (1 x 300 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL). The organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 20/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (25.8 g, 97%) as a yellow oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_9H_{13}IO_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 279.9960, found 279.9961.

25       A mixture of zinc dust (650 mg, 10 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated.  
30      The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then

treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (2.21 g, 7.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL) over 3 min. The resulting reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess  
5 zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (90 mg, 0.16 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (160 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.52 g, 5 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was  
10 stirred at 25°C over the weekend and then heated at 40-45°C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*.  
15 Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.14 g, 68%) as a light yellow solid: mp 111-114°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 330.1492, found 330.1493.

20 A solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (720 mg, 2.18 mmol) in ethanol (15 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (5 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The  
25 residue was diluted with water (30 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 50 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in  
30 vacuo* to afford (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid

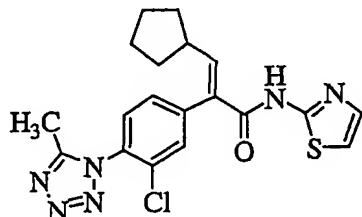
(690 mg, 100%) as a white solid: mp 182-185°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 316.1336, found 316.1334.

A solution of triphenylphosphine (262 mg, 1 mmol) in methylene chloride (6 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with N-bromosuccinimide (178 mg, 1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (158 mg, 0.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-amino-5-bromopyridine (260 mg, 1.5 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and water (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 3/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylamide (66 mg, 28%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>20</sub>BrFN<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 470.0866, found 470.0864.

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#### Example 14

(E)-2-[3-Chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide



25

A solution of 2-chloro-4-iodoaniline (25 g, 96.66 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (50.6 g, 500 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred

for 15 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove tetrahydrofuran. The residue was crystallized from ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solids were collected and washed with hexanes to afford N-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (23.87 g, 84%) as a white crystalline solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ClINO (M<sup>+</sup>) 295.1526, found  
5 295.1532.

A suspension of N-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (2.39 g, 8.09 mmol) in acetonitrile (40 mL) at 25°C was treated with methylene chloride (5 mL) to obtain a clear solution. The resulting solution was then treated with sodium azide (1.05 g, 16.18 mmol),  
10 and the reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C. The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (3.42 g, 12.13 mmol), and the resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL), and the two layers were separated. The aqueous layer was further extracted with ethyl  
15 acetate (1 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.53 g, 59%) as a white solid: mp 128-130.5°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>ClIN<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 319.9327, found 319.9325.  
20

A mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with a 2.0M solution of cyclopentylmagnesium  
25 chloride in diethyl ether (55 mL, 110 mmol). After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -30°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.99 g, 95 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at -60°C to -50°C. The reaction mixture was then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran  
30 (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution,

the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (200 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). The combined  
5 organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 300 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL). The organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60; 230-400 mesh, 20/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (25.8 g, 97%) as a yellow  
10 oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 279.9960, found 279.9961.

A mixture of zinc dust (650 mg, 10 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and  
15 heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.26 g, 4.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) over 3 min. The reaction mixture was then  
20 stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (54 mg, 0.1 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (104 mg, 0.4 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then  
25 treated with 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (875 mg, 2.73 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was stirred at 25°C over the weekend and then heated at 40-45°C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 35 mL). The  
30 combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*.

Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (859 mg, 91%) as a light yellow semi-solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{17}H_{19}ClN_4O_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 346.1196, found 346.1190.

5

A solution of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (160 mg, 0.46 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (1 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence 10 of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 30 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride 15 solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-acrylic acid (155 mg, 100%) as a white solid: mp 216-219°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{16}H_{17}ClN_4O_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 332.1040, found 332.1048.

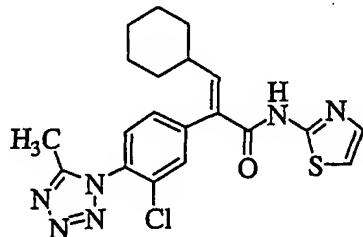
20

A solution of triphenylphosphine (165 mg, 0.63 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (112 mg, 0.63 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-acrylic acid (123 mg, 0.37 mmol) in methylene chloride (3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then 25 allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (92.5 mg, 0.93 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer 30 was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mL), a saturated

aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide 5 (36 mg, 23%) as an amorphous solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>19</sub>ClN<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 414.1029, found 414.1029.

#### Example 15

10 (E)-2-[3-Chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-  
acrylamide



A suspension of triphenylphosphine (11.7 g, 44.8 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (8 mL, 83 mmol) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with triethylamine (2.5 mL, 18 mmol) and acetic acid (1.15 mL, 20 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then treated with a solution of 2-chloro-4-iodoaniline (5.07 g, 20 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (12 mL, heated to obtain a solution). The resulting light brown suspension was allowed to warm to 25°C and then it was refluxed overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting solid residue was then diluted with hexanes 15 (50 mL) and methylene chloride (50 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the resulting residue was diluted with diethyl ether (100 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was again diluted with hexanes (100 mL), and the precipitated solid was collected by 20 filtration. The filtrate was finally concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the imidoyl chloride intermediate (4.08 g) as a liquid. This crude imidoyl chloride intermediate (4.08 g, ~13 mmol) was treated with sodium azide (1.04 g, 16 mmol) and acetic acid (10 mL). The reaction was exothermic, and the resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 25°C. The 25 residue was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the final product.

reaction mixture was then heated at 70°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of the imidoyl chloride intermediate. The cloudy yellow suspension was cooled to 25°C and then diluted with water (100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 75 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed successively with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 6/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (350 mg, 6%) as a white solid: mp 128-130.5°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>ClIN<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 10 319.9327, found 319.9325.

A mixture of zinc dust (16.34 g, 250 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (6 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (0.94 g, 5 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (0.54 g, 5 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of cyclohexyl iodide (21 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL) over 15 min. During the addition, the temperature rose to 60°C. 15 The reaction mixture was then stirred for 3 h at 40-45°C. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 25°C and diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (60 mL). The stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~3 h). In a separate reaction flask, a mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.95 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (110 mL) was stirred for 10 min at 20 25°C to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with the freshly prepared zinc solution using a syringe. After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.56 g, 90 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 15 h at -70°C to -50°C and then slowly 25 treated with a solution of iodine (34.26 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with 30

the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (400 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (100 mL), and the 5 organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 250 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 500 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 500 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 9/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclohexyl-2- 10 iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (26.3 g, 99%) as a light pink oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 294.0117, found 294.0114.

A mixture of zinc dust (320 mg, 5 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (94 mg, 0.5 mmol). 15 The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (55 mg, 0.5 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclohexyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (588 20 mg, 2 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL). After the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 40-45°C and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (27 mg, 0.05 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (57 mg, 25 0.2 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (320.5 mg, 1 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 50°C for 15 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (30 mL), and the organic compound was 30 extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium

sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 4/1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate/methylene chloride) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (233 mg, 64%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{18}H_{21}ClN_4O_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 360.1353, found 5 360.1354.

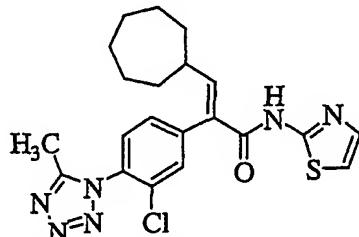
A solution of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (209 mg, 0.58 mmol) in ethanol (3 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (1.2 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which 10 time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol, and the residue was diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 30 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution. The resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 20 mL). 15 The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid (203 mg, 99%) as a brown solid: FAB-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{17}H_{19}ClN_4O_2$  ( $M+H$ )<sup>+</sup> 347.1275, found 347.1283.

20 A solution of triphenylphosphine (290 mg, 1.1 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (195 mg, 1.1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid (192 mg, 0.55 mmol) in 25 methylene chloride (3 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (166 mg, 1.66 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (40 mL) and a 1N aqueous 30 hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were

successively washed with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mL), a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 7/3 to 2/3 hexanes/ethyl acetate) 5 afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide (86 mg, 36%) as an amorphous solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>21</sub>ClN<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 428.1186, found 428.1189.

#### Example 16

- 10 (E)-2-[3-Chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide



A solution of 2-chloro-4-iodoaniline (25 g, 96.66 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (50.6 g, 500 mmol). The reaction 15 mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 15 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove tetrahydrofuran. The residue was crystallized from ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solids were collected and washed with hexanes to afford N-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (23.87 g, 84%) as a white crystalline solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ClINO (M<sup>+</sup>) 295.1526, found 20 295.1532.

A suspension of N-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (2.39 g, 8.09 mmol) in acetonitrile (40 mL) at 25°C was treated with methylene chloride (5 mL) to obtain a clear solution. The resulting solution was then treated with sodium azide (1.05 g, 16.18 mmol), 25 and the reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C. The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (3.42 g, 12.13 mmol), and the resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50

mL), and the two layers were separated. The aqueous layer was further extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.53 g, 59%) as a white solid: mp 128-130.5°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>ClIN<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 319.9327, found 319.9325.

A mixture of magnesium metal (4.81 g, 200 mmol) and dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) under argon was treated with a solution of 1,2-dibromoethane (0.94 g, 5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min to activate the magnesium metal. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of cycloheptyl bromide (17.7 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), one-fifth portion over a period of 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 5-10 min to initiate the exothermic reaction. The remaining portion of the cycloheptyl bromide solution was then added dropwise while controlling the inside temperature below 50°C. After complete addition, the solution was stirred for 1 h and then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (80 mL). In a separate reaction flask, a mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (110 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with the freshly prepared cycloheptylmagnesium bromide. After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -10°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then treated with methyl propiolate (7.57 g, 90 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 h at -70°C to -50°C and then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (400 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (100 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 200 mL). The combined organic extracts

were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 400 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 400 mL). The organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 20/1 to 10/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) 5 afforded (E)-3-cycloheptyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (17.86 g, 64%) as a colorless oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{11}H_{17}IO_2 (M^+)$  308.0273, found 308.0273.

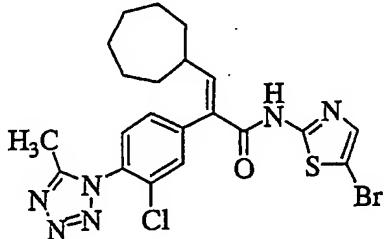
A mixture of zinc dust (980 mg, 15 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (280 mg, 1.5 mmol). 10 The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (162 mg, 1.5 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cycloheptyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.54 15 g, 5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL). The reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (81 mg, 0.15 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (156 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (12 mL) was 20 stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.28 g, 4 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 45-50°C for 20 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (100 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 25 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.29 g, 85%) as a yellow oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for 30  $C_{19}H_{23}ClN_4O_2 (M^+)$  374.1509, found 374.1509.

A solution of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.20 g, 3.2 mmol) in ethanol (15 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (6.5 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 50 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 70 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylic acid (1.01 g, 87%) as a white solid.

A solution of triphenylphosphine (1.45 g, 5.54 mmol) in methylene chloride (15 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (986 mg, 5.54 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylic acid (1.00 g, 2.77 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (832 g, 8.32 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 3 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide (810 mg, 66%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClN<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 442.1343, found 442.1343.

**Example 17**

(E)-N-(5-Bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylamide



5 A solution of 2-chloro-4-iodoaniline (25 g, 96.66 mmol) in tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (50.6 g, 500 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 15 h. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove tetrahydrofuran. The residue was crystallized from ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solids were 10 collected and washed with hexanes to afford N-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (23.87 g, 84%) as a white crystalline solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>ClINO (M<sup>+</sup>) 295.1526, found 295.1532.

15 A suspension of N-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (2.39 g, 8.09 mmol) in acetonitrile (40 mL) at 25°C was treated with methylene chloride (5 mL) to obtain a clear solution. The resulting solution was then treated with sodium azide (1.05 g, 16.18 mmol), and the reaction mixture was cooled to 0°C. The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (3.42 g, 12.13 mmol), and the resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight. The reaction mixture was then 20 concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL), and the two layers were separated. The aqueous layer was further extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.53 g, 59%) as a white solid: mp 128-130.5°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>ClIN<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 319.9327, found 319.9325.

A mixture of magnesium metal (4.81 g, 200 mmol) and dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) under argon was treated with a solution of 1,2-dibromoethane (0.94 g, 5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min to activate the magnesium metal. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of cycloheptyl bromide (17.7 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), one-fifth portion over a period of 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 5-10 min to initiate the exothermic reaction. The remaining portion of the cycloheptyl bromide solution was then added dropwise while controlling the inside temperature below 50°C. After complete addition, the solution was stirred for 1 h and then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (80 mL).

5 In a separate reaction flask, a mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (110 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with the freshly prepared cycloheptylmagnesium bromide. After the addition, the reaction mixture was

10 allowed to warm to -10°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then treated with methyl propiolate (7.57 g, 90 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 h at -70°C to -50°C and then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed,

15 and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (400 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (100 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 200 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 400 mL)

20 and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 400 mL). The organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 20/1 to 10/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cycloheptyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (17.86 g, 64%) as a colorless oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>11</sub>H<sub>17</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 308.0273, found 308.0273.

25

- A mixture of zinc dust (980 mg, 15 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (280 mg, 1.5 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated.
- 5     The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (162 mg, 1.5 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cycloheptyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.54 g, 5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL). The reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (81 mg, 0.15 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (156 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (12 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.28 g, 4 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 45-50°C for 20 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (100 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and 15 concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.29 g, 85%) as a yellow oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 374.1509, found 374.1509.
- 25     A solution of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.20 g, 3.2 mmol) in ethanol (15 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (6.5 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove 30 ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (50 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 50 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N

aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 70 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-5 cycloheptyl-acrylic acid (1.01 g, 87%) as a white solid.

A solution of triphenylphosphine (1.45 g, 5.54 mmol) in methylene chloride (15 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (986 mg, 5.54 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of (E)-2-[3-10 chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylic acid (1.00 g, 2.77 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (832 g, 8.32 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 15 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage 20 chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide (810 mg, 66%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>23</sub>ClN<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 442.1343, found 442.1343.

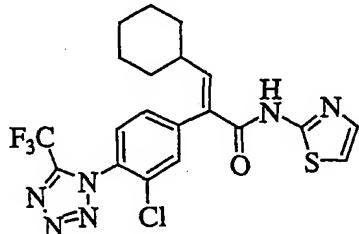
25 A suspension of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide (300 mg, 0.69 mmol) and *N*-bromosuccinimide (123 mg, 0.69 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (3 mL) at 25°C was treated with benzoyl peroxide (8.4 mg, 0.035 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was heated to 90°C where it was stirred overnight at this temperature. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to 25°C and then concentrated *in 30 vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (50 mL). The organic phase was then washed with water (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50

mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-N-(5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3 cycloheptyl-acrylamide (118 mg, 33%) as an amorphous solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>22</sub>BrClN<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 520.0448, found 520.0448.

### Example 18

#### (E)-2-[3-Chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide

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A suspension of triphenylphosphine (13.11 g, 50 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (8 mL, 83 mmol) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with triethylamine (2.78 mL, 20 mmol) and trifluoroacetic acid (1.3 mL, 16.6 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then treated with a solution of 2-chloro-4-iodoaniline (5.07 g, 20 mmol) in carbon tetrachloride (10 mL). The resulting light brown suspension was allowed to warm to 25°C and then it was refluxed overnight. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting solid residue was then diluted with hexanes (50 mL) and methylene chloride (50 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes. The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the resulting residue was diluted with diethyl ether (100 mL). The precipitated solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was again diluted with hexanes (100 mL), and the precipitated solid was collected by filtration. The filtrate was finally concentrated *in vacuo* to afford the imidoyl chloride intermediate (5.88 g) as a brown liquid. This crude imidoyl chloride intermediate (5.88 g, ~16 mmol) was treated with sodium azide (1.04 g, 16 mmol) and acetic acid (10 mL). The resulting reaction mixture was then heated at 70°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of the imidoyl chloride intermediate. The

cloudy yellow suspension was cooled to 25°C and then diluted with water (100 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 75 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed successively with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 8/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-tetrazole (5.2 g, 69%) as a light yellow solid: mp 71-73°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>3</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>IN<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 373.9043, found 373.9044.

A mixture of zinc dust (16.34 g, 250 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (6 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (0.94 g, 5 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (0.54 g, 5 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of cyclohexyl iodide (21 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL) over 15 min. During the addition, the temperature rose to 60°C. The reaction mixture was then stirred for 3 h at 40-45°C. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 25°C and diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (60 mL). The stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~3 h). In a separate reaction flask, a mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.95 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (110 mL) was stirred for 10 min at 25°C to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with the freshly prepared zinc solution using a syringe. After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 0°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.56 g, 90 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was stirred for 15 h at -70°C to -50°C and then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.26 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was

stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (400 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (100 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 250 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 500 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 500 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 9/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclohexyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (26.3 g, 99%) as a light pink oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>15</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 294.0117, found 294.0114.

10

A mixture of zinc dust (650 mg, 10 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. 15 The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (110 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclohexyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.32 g, 4.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) over 5 min. After the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 40-45°C and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was 20 then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (54 mg, 0.1 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (104 mg, 0.4 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (8 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(2-chloro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-trifluoromethyl-1H-tetrazole (1.12 g, 3 mmol) and 25 the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 50°C for 15 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (70 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium 30 sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 6/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded the (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-

phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (908 mg, 73%) as an amorphous white solid:  
EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 414.1070, found 414.1075.

A solution of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid methyl ester (833 mg, 2 mmol) in ethanol (10 mL) was treated with a 5 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (4 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol, and the residue was diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 50 mL) 10 to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution. The resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid 15 (606 mg, 75%) as a brown solid: FAB-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>16</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M+H)<sup>+</sup> 401.0992, found 401.0987.

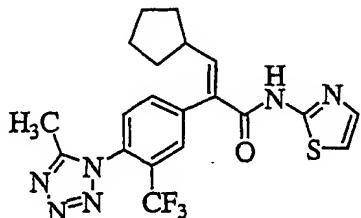
A solution of triphenylphosphine (772 mg, 2.96 mmol) in methylene chloride (10 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (526 mg, 2.96 mmol). 20 The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-acrylic acid (594 mg, 1.48 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL). The reaction mixture was then stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (444 mg, 4.44 mmol), and the resulting suspension 25 was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (70 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 100 mL), a saturated 30 aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in*

*vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 5/1 to 3/2 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide (82 mg, 11%) as an amorphous solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>ClF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 482.0903, found 482.0906.

5

### Example 19

#### (E)-3-Cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide



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A solution of 2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-bromoaniline (4.8 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (8.2 g, 80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude residue precipitated from diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solid was collected by filtrated and washed with hexanes to afford N-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetamide (5.07 g, 90%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>NO (M<sup>+</sup>) 281.8352, found 281.8348.

A suspension of N-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetamide (2.41 g, 8.54 mmol) in acetonitrile (40 mL) was treated with methylene chloride (5 mL) to obtain a clear solution at 25°C. The resulting solution was treated with sodium azide (1.24 g, 19.1 mmol), and the reaction mixture was then cooled to 0°C. The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (3.59 g, 12.7 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material.

The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 2/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.85 g, 70%) as a white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 305.9728, found 305.9733.

A mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with a 2.0M solution of cyclopentylmagnesium chloride in diethyl ether (55 mL, 110 mmol). After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -30°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.99 g, 95 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at -60°C to -50°C. The reaction mixture was then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (200 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 300 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL). The organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 20/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (25.8 g, 97%) as a yellow oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 279.9960, found 279.9961.

A mixture of zinc dust (710 mg, 11 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated.

5      The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.54 g, 5.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (2 mL) over 3 min. The reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then

10     diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (81 mg, 0.15 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (156 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (6 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.05 g, 3.5 mmol)

15     and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was heated at 40-45°C over the weekend. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 35 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over

20     anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.03 g, 77.6%) as a light yellow solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 380.1460, found 380.1453.

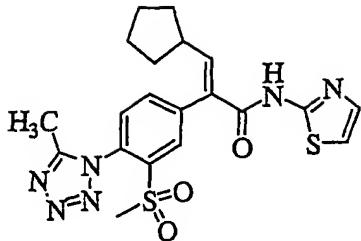
25     A solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (199 mg, 0.52 mmol) in ethanol (3 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (2 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (10 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 30

mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 20 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-acrylic acid (172 mg, 90%) as a yellow paste: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>17</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 366.1309, found 366.1309.

A solution of triphenylphosphine (204 mg, 0.78 mmol) in methylene chloride (8 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (138 mg, 0.78 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-acrylic acid (143 mg, 0.39 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (117 mg, 1.17 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mL), a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 1/2 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded the (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide (27 mg, 15.5%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 448.1293, found 448.1285.

#### Example 20

(E)-3-Cyclopentyl-2-[3-methanesulfonyl-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide



A solution of 2-nitro-4-bromoaniline (7.07 g, 32.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (33 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (6.66 g, 65.2 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C. The 5 reaction mixture was stirred at 25°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the presence of only starting material. The reaction mixture was then slowly treated with acetyl chloride (5 mL) and pyridine (5 mL) at 25°C. The resulting orange suspension was stirred at 25°C for 2 h and then treated with water (50 mL). The organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 70 mL). The combined extracts were washed with a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 100 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a yellow solid. The yellow solid was treated with diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes to afford N-(4-bromo-2-nitro-phenyl)-acetamide (6.82 g, 81%) as a yellow solid: mp 100-102°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrN<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 257.9640, found 10 257.9641.

A suspension of N-(4-bromo-2-nitro-phenyl)-acetamide (1.18 g, 4.55 mmol) in acetonitrile (25 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium azide (838 mg, 13.65 20 mmol). The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (2.88 g, 10.25 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (70 mL) and water (50 mL). The 25 two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride

solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(4-bromo-2-nitro-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.16 g, 90%) as a white solid: mp 124-126°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrN<sub>5</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 282.9705, found 282.9700.

5

A suspension of 1-(4-bromo-2-nitro-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.13 g, 3.98 mmol) in methanol (40 mL, not completely dissolved in methanol even at hot conditions) was treated sequentially with ammonium chloride (3.19 g, 59.7 mmol), zinc dust (2.60 g, 39.8 mmol), and water (20 mL). Initially after the addition, the reaction was exothermic. The 10 reaction mixture was then stirred for 1 h at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then filtered, and the residue was washed with methanol (50 mL) and ethyl acetate (100 mL). The filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 200 mL), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 5-bromo-2-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenylamine (0.90 g, 97%) as a white 15 solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>8</sub>BrN<sub>5</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 252.9963, found 252.9962.

A solution of isoamyl nitrite (402 µL, 3 mmol) in dimethyl disulfide (2 mL, 22 mmol) at 25°C was slowly treated with 5-bromo-2-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenylamine (0.51 g, 2 mmol). The reaction was exothermic with gas evolution. The resulting brown reaction 20 mixture was heated to 80-90°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (50 mL). The organic layer was washed successively with a 1N aqueous 25 hydrochloric acid solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 6/1 to 5/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(4-bromo-2-methylsulfanyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (0.8 g) as a brown solid that was used without further purification and characterization.

30

- A solution of 1-(4-bromo-2-methylsulfanyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (0.8 g, ~2 mmol) in methylene chloride (12 mL) was cooled to -10°C and then treated with 3-chloroperoxybenzoic acid (86% grade, 2.0 g, 12 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at -10°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred over the weekend.
- 5 At this time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate (60 mL). The organic layer was washed successively with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (2 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and
- 10 concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a yellow solid. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 3/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(4-bromo-2-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (313 mg, 49%) as a white solid: mp 175-176°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>BrN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 315.9630, found 315.9630.
- 15 A mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was then cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with a 2.0M solution of cyclopentylmagnesium chloride in diethyl ether (55 mL, 110 mmol). After the addition, the reaction mixture was
- 20 allowed to warm to -30°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.99 g, 95 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at -60°C to -50°C. The reaction mixture was then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution,
- 25 the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (200 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 300 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL). The

organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 20/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (25.8 g, 97%) as a yellow oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 279.9960, found 279.9961.

5

- A mixture of zinc dust (330 mg, 5 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated.
- 10 The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (440 mg, 1.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL). The resulting reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then
- 15 diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (27 mg, 0.05 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (52 mg, 0.2 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (4mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(4-bromo-2-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (297 mg, 0.94 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red
- 20 solution was stirred at 40-45°C over the weekend. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (30 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-methanesulfonyl-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (289 mg, 78%) as an amorphous yellow solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 390.1362, found 390.1363.

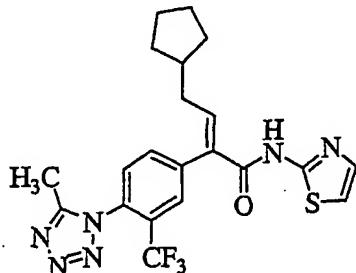
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A solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-methanesulfonyl-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (273 mg, 0.7 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (1.5 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 30 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-methanesulfonyl-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (262 mg, 100%) as a yellow solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>20</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>4</sub>S (M<sup>+</sup>) 376.1205, found 376.1204.

A solution of triphenylphosphine (262 mg, 1 mmol) in methylene chloride (6 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (178 mg, 1 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-methanesulfonyl-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (190 mg, 0.5 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (250 mg, 2.5 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and water (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 3/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-methanesulfonyl-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide (42 mg, 18%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>22</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>3</sub>S<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 458.1195, found 458.1192.

**Example 21**

**(E)-4-Cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-but-2-enoic acid thiazol-2-ylamide**



5 A solution of 2-(trifluoromethyl)-4-bromoaniline (4.8 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (8.2 g, 80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 10 min and then allowed to warm to 25°C. The reaction mixture was stirred at 25°C for 2 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material.

10 The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude residue precipitated from diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solid was collected by filtrated and washed with hexanes to afford N-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetamide (5.07 g, 90%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>NO (M<sup>+</sup>) 281.8352, found 281.8348.

15 A suspension of N-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-acetamide (2.41 g, 8.54 mmol) in acetonitrile (40 mL) was treated with methylene chloride (5 mL) to obtain a clear solution at 25°C. The resulting solution was treated with sodium azide (1.24 g, 19.1 mmol), and the reaction mixture was then cooled to 0°C. The reaction mixture was then treated with 20 trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (3.59 g, 12.7 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (50 mL) and water (50 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 30 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography

(FLASH 40M, Silica, 2/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.85 g, 70%) as a white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>6</sub>BrF<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 305.9728, found 305.9733.

5        A mixture of zinc dust (3.92 g, 60 mmol, Aldrich; -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (4 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (0.56 g, 3 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (0.32 g, 3 mmol, 10 and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of cyclopentylmethyl iodide (4.2 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (7 mL) over 5 min. During the addition, the temperature rose to 50°C, and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at 40-45°C. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 25°C and diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL). The stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc 15 dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, a mixture of lithium chloride (1.7 g, 40 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 2 h) and copper cyanide (1.79 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was stirred for 10 min at 25°C to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with the freshly prepared zinc solution using a syringe. After the addition, the reaction mixture was 20 allowed to warm to -30°C, where it was stirred for 5 min. The reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (1.52 g, 18 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 h at -40°C to -30°C and then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (6.85 g, 27 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After the addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and 25 the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (90 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (10 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into diethyl ether (3 x 50 mL). The combined ether extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 100 mL) and a saturated 30 aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate,

filtrated, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 9/1 hexanes/diethyl ether) afforded (E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-but-2-enoic acid methyl ester (4.56 g, 86%) as a colorless oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{10}H_{15}IO_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 294.0116, found 294.0114.

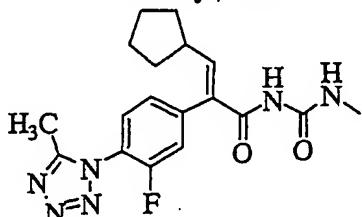
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- A mixture of zinc dust (330 mg, 5 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated.
- 10 The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-but-2-enoic acid methyl ester (590 mg, 2 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL). After the addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 1 h at 40-45°C and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was
- 15 then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (38 mg, 0.07 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (73 mg, 0.28 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (7 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and then treated with 1-(4-bromo-2-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (350 mg, 1.4 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red
- 20 solution was heated at 45-50°C for 20 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (30 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 25 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-but-2-enoic acid methyl ester (360 mg, 65%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for  $C_{19}H_{21}F_3N_4O_2$  ( $M^+$ ) 394.1617, found 394.1621.

30

A solution of (E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-but-2-enoic acid methyl ester (359 mg, 0.9 mmol) in ethanol (5 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (3 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (20 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 30 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 30 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-but-2-enoic acid (340 mg, 98%) as a yellow solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>19</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 380.1460, found 380.1460.

15 A solution of triphenylphosphine (450 mg, 1.72 mmol) in methylene chloride (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with *N*-bromosuccinimide (306 mg, 1.72 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred at 0°C for 30 min and then treated with a solution of the (E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-but-2-enoic acid (326 mg, 0.86 mmol) in methylene chloride (5 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min at 0°C and then allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 1.5 h. The reaction mixture was then treated with 2-aminothiazole (257 mg, 2.57 mmol), and the resulting suspension was stirred for 2 d at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to remove methylene chloride, and the residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (20 mL) and water (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 15 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40S, Silica, 3/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-but-2-enoic acid thiazol-2-ylamide (52 mg, 13%) as an amorphous white solid: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>21</sub>F<sub>3</sub>N<sub>6</sub>OS (M<sup>+</sup>) 462.1450, found 462.1451.

**Example 22****1. (E)-1-{3-Cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acryloyl}-3-methyl-urea**

A solution of 2-fluoro-4-iodoaniline (4.74 g, 20 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (20 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with acetic anhydride (8.2 g, 80 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred for 10 min at 0°C and then was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. After this time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* to afford a crude residue. The residue precipitated from diethyl ether (50 mL) and hexanes (50 mL). The solid was collected by filtration and washed with hexanes to afford N-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (5.12 g, 92%) as a white crystalline solid: mp 152-154°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>7</sub>FINO (M<sup>+</sup>) 278.9556, found 278.9559.

15

A suspension of N-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-acetamide (5 g, 18.24 mmol) in acetonitrile (100 mL) was cooled to 0°C and then treated with sodium azide (3.56 g, 54.7 mmol). The reaction mixture was then treated with trifluoromethanesulfonic anhydride (13.6 g, 48 mmol). The resulting reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred overnight, at which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo*. The resulting residue was diluted with ethyl acetate (100 mL) and water (100 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 50 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 4/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded 1-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (3.45 g, 62%) as a white solid: mp 122-124°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>6</sub>FIN<sub>4</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 303.9621, found 303.9615.

A mixture of lithium chloride (8.48 g, 200 mmol, predried at 130°C under high vacuum for 3 h) and copper cyanide (8.96 g, 100 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (100 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min to obtain a clear solution. The reaction mixture was 5 then cooled to -70°C and then slowly treated with a 2.0M solution of cyclopentylmagnesium chloride in diethyl ether (55 mL, 110 mmol). After the addition, the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to -30°C where it was stirred for 5 min. The resulting reaction mixture was again cooled back to -70°C and then slowly treated with methyl propiolate (7.99 g, 95 mmol). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight at -60°C to -50°C. The reaction mixture 10 was then slowly treated with a solution of iodine (34.3 g, 135 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (30 mL), with the temperature kept at -70°C to -60°C. After addition of the iodine solution, the cooling bath was removed, and the reaction mixture was allowed to warm to 25°C where it was stirred for 2 h. The reaction mixture was then poured into a solution consisting of a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (200 mL) and ammonium hydroxide (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into diethyl ether (3 x 100 mL). The combined 15 organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium thiosulfate solution (1 x 300 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 300 mL). The organic layer was then dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 20/1 hexanes/diethyl 20 ether) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (25.8 g, 97%) as a yellow oil: EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub>IO<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 279.9960, found 279.9961.

A mixture of zinc dust (650 mg, 10 mmol, Aldrich, -325 mesh) and dry tetrahydrofuran (1 mL) under argon was treated with 1,2-dibromoethane (187 mg, 1 mmol). 25 The zinc suspension was then heated with a heat gun to ebullition, allowed to cool, and heated again. This process was repeated three times to make sure the zinc dust was activated. The activated zinc dust suspension was then treated with trimethylsilyl chloride (108 mg, 1 mmol), and the suspension was stirred for 15 min at 25°C. The reaction mixture was then treated dropwise with a solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-iodo-acrylic acid methyl ester (2.21 30 g, 7.5 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (3 mL) over 3 min. The resulting reaction mixture was then stirred at 40-45°C for 1 h and then stirred overnight at 25°C. The reaction mixture was

then diluted with dry tetrahydrofuran (5 mL), and the stirring was stopped to allow the excess zinc dust to settle down (~2 h). In a separate reaction flask, bis(dibenzylideneacetone)palladium(0) (90 mg, 0.16 mmol) and triphenylphosphine (160 mg, 0.6 mmol) in dry tetrahydrofuran (10 mL) was stirred at 25°C under argon for 10 min and 5 then treated with 1-(2-fluoro-4-iodo-phenyl)-5-methyl-1H-tetrazole (1.52 g, 5 mmol) and the freshly prepared zinc compound in tetrahydrofuran. The resulting brick red solution was stirred at 25°C over the weekend and then heated at 40-45°C for 4 h. The reaction mixture was cooled to 25°C and then poured into a saturated aqueous ammonium chloride solution (50 mL), and the organic compound was extracted into ethyl acetate (3 x 50 mL). The 10 combined organic extracts were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Flash chromatography (Merck Silica gel 60, 230-400 mesh, 4/1 to 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (1.14 g, 68%) as a light yellow solid: mp 111-114°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for 15 C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 330.1492, found 330.1493.

A solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid methyl ester (720 mg, 2.18 mmol) in ethanol (15 mL) was treated with a 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (5 mL). The solution was heated at 45-50°C for 15 h, at 20 which time, thin layer chromatography analysis of the reaction mixture indicated the absence of starting material. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove ethanol. The residue was diluted with water (30 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether (1 x 50 mL) to remove any neutral impurities. The aqueous layer was then acidified with a 1N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and the resulting acid was extracted into ethyl acetate (2 x 50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 100 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (690 mg, 100%) as a white solid: mp 182-185°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>17</sub>FN<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 316.1336, found 316.1334.

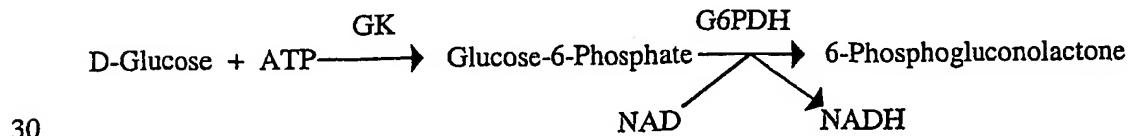
A solution of (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylic acid (158 mg, 0.5 mmol) in fluorobenzene (1 mL) and *N,N*-dimethylformamide (2  $\mu$ L) at 25°C was treated dropwise with oxalyl chloride (54  $\mu$ L, 0.6 mmol) over 2-3 min. The clear solution was stirred for 1 h at 25°C and then treated with methyl urea (111 mg, 1.5 mmol). The resulting suspension was heated at 70°C (bath temperature) for 10 min and then treated with pyridine (81  $\mu$ L, 1 mmol). The reaction mixture was then stirred at 70°C for 20 h. The reaction mixture was then cooled to 25°C and diluted with ethyl acetate (30 mL) and a 3N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution (30 mL). The two layers were separated, and the aqueous layer was extracted with ethyl acetate (1 x 20 mL). The combined organic extracts were successively washed with a saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution (1 x 50 mL) and a saturated aqueous sodium chloride solution (1 x 50 mL), dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, filtered, and concentrated *in vacuo*. Biotage chromatography (FLASH 40M, Silica, 1/1 hexanes/ethyl acetate) afforded the (E)-1-{3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acryloyl}-3-methyl-urea (41 mg, 22%) as a white solid: mp 186-192°C; EI-HRMS m/e calcd for C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>FN<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (M<sup>+</sup>) 372.1710, found 372.1708.

### Biological Activity Examples

#### Example A: *In Vitro* Glucokinase Activity

*Glucokinase Assay:* Glucokinase (GK) was assayed by coupling the production of glucose-6-phosphate to the generation of NADH with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PDH, 0.75-1 kunits/mg; Boehringer Mannheim, Indianapolis, IN) from *Leuconostoc mesenteroides* as the coupling enzyme (Scheme 2). Recombinant

25



Scheme 2

Human liver GK1 was expressed in *E. coli* as a glutathione S-transferase fusion protein (GST-GK) [Liang et al, 1995] and was purified by chromatography over a glutathione-

Sepharose 4B affinity column using the procedure provided by the manufacturer (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, Piscataway, NJ). Previous studies have demonstrated that the enzymatic properties of native GK and GST-GK are essentially identical (Liang et al, 1995; Neet et al., 1990).

5

The assay was conducted at 25° C in a flat bottom 96-well tissue culture plate from Costar (Cambridge, MA) with a final incubation volume of 120 µl. The incubation mixture contained: 25 mM Hepes buffer (pH, 7.1), 25 mM KCl, 5 mM D-glucose, 1mM ATP, 1.8 mM NAD, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 µM sorbitol-6-phosphate, 1 mM dithiothreitol, test drug or 10% DMSO, 1.8 unit/ml G6PDH, and GK (see below). All organic reagents were >98 % pure and were from Boehringer Mannheim with the exceptions of D-glucose and Hepes that were from Sigma Chemical Co, St Louis, MO. Test compounds were dissolved in DMSO and were added to the incubation mixture minus GST-GK in a volume of 12 µl to yield a final DMSO concentration of 10%. This mix was preincubated in the temperature controlled chamber of a SPECTRAmax 250 microplate spectrophotometer (Molecular Devices Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA) for 10 minutes to allow temperature equilibrium and then the reaction was started by the addition of 20 µl GST-GK.

After addition of enzyme, the increase in optical density (OD) at 340 nm was monitored over a 10 minute incubation period as a measure of GK activity. Sufficient GST-GK was added to produce an increase in OD<sub>340</sub> of 0.08 to 0.1 units over the 10 minute incubation period in wells containing 10% DMSO, but no test compound. Preliminary experiments established that the GK reaction was linear over this period of time even in the presence of activators that produced a 5-fold increase in GK activity. The GK activity in control wells was compared with the activity in wells containing test GK activators, and the concentration of activator that produced a 50% increase in the activity of GK, i.e., the SC<sub>1.5</sub>, was calculated. All of the compounds of formula IA or IB described in the Synthesis Examples had an SC<sub>1.5</sub> less than or equal to 30 µM.

30

#### Example B: Glucokinase Activator *in vivo* Screen Protocol

C57BL/6J mice were orally dosed via gavage with Glucokinase (GK) activator at 50 mg/kg body weight following a two hour fasting period. Blood glucose determinations were made five times during the six hour post-dose study period.

- 5        Mice (n=6) were weighed and fasted for a two hour period prior to oral treatment. GK activators were formulated at 6.76 mg/ml in Gelucire vehicle  
(Ethanol:Gelucire44/14:PEG400q.s. 4:66:30 v/w/v. Mice were dosed orally with 7.5 $\mu$ L formulation per gram of body weight to equal a 50 mg/kg dose. Immediately prior to dosing,  
10      a pre dose (time zero) blood glucose reading is acquired by snipping off a small portion of the animals tail (~1mm) and collecting 15 $\mu$ L blood into a heparinized capillary tube for analysis. Following GK activator administration, additional blood glucose readings were taken at 1, 2, 4, and 6 hours post dose from the same tail wound. Results were interpreted by comparing the mean blood glucose values of six vehicle treated mice with six GK activator treated mice over the six hour study duration. Compounds are considered active when they  
15      exhibit a statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) decrease in blood glucose compared to vehicle for two consecutive assay time points.

**Example A**

Tablets containing the following ingredients can be produced in a conventional manner:

	<u>Ingredients</u>	<u>mg per tablet</u>
5	Compound of formula (I)	10.0 - 100.0
	Lactose	125.0
	Corn starch	75.0
	Talc	4.0
10	Magnesium stearate	1.0

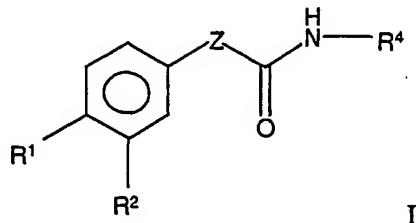
**Example B**

Capsules containing the following ingredients can be produced in a conventional manner:

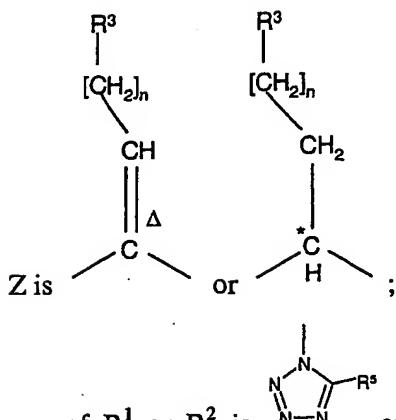
	<u>Ingredients</u>	<u>mg per capsule</u>
15	Compound of formula (I)	25.0
	Lactose	150.0
	Corn starch	20.0
20	Talc	5.0

**Claims:**

1. A tetrazole selected from the group consisting of a compound of the formula I:



## 5 wherein



one of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is  $\text{N}-\text{N}$  and the other is hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl sulfonyl, perfluoro lower alkyl, cyano, or nitro;

$R^3$  is cycloalkyl;

10 R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)-NHR<sup>6</sup> or a five- or six-membered heteroaromatic ring connected by a ring carbon atom to the amide group shown, which heteroaromatic ring contains from 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen with a first heteroatom being nitrogen adjacent to the connecting ring carbon atom, said heteroaromatic ring being unsubstituted or monosubstituted with halogen at a position on a ring carbon atom other than  
15 that adjacent to said connecting carbon atom;

15 that adjacent to said connecting carbon atom;

$R^5$  is lower alkyl, or perfluoro lower alkyl;

$R^6$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

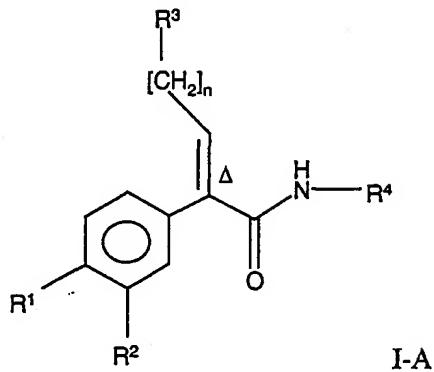
n is 0 or 1;

$\Delta$  denotes a trans configuration across the double bond:

20 \* represents the asymmetric carbon atom:

and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

2. A tetrazole according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of a compound of the formula I-A:

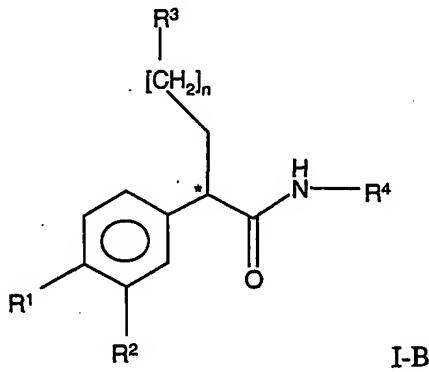


5

I-A

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and n are as defined in claim 1 and Δ denotes a trans configuration across the double bond.

3. A tetrazole according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of a compound of  
10 the formula I-B:

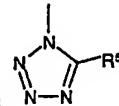


I-B

wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and n are as defined in claim 1 and the \* represents the asymmetric carbon atom.

- 15 4. A tetrazole according to any of claims claim 1 to 3, wherein R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)-NH-R<sup>6</sup>, thiazolyl optionally substituted by halogen or pyridinyl optionally substituted by halogen.

5. A tetrazole according to claim 4, wherein R<sup>4</sup> is thiazolyl optionally substituted by halogen or pyridyl optionally substituted by halogen



6. A tetrazole according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is and R<sup>2</sup> is halogen, lower alkyl sulfonyl or perfluoro lower alkyl.

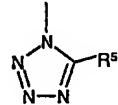
5

7. A tetrazole according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein R<sup>5</sup> is methyl or trifluoromethyl.

8. A tetrazole according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl.

10 9. A tetrazole according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein R<sup>6</sup> is methyl.

10. A tetrazole according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein n is 0.



11. A tetrazole according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein one of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is and the other is halogen, lower alkyl sulfonyl or perfluoro lower alkyl; R<sup>3</sup> is C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>-cycloalkyl; R<sup>4</sup> is -C(O)-NH-R<sup>6</sup>, thiazolyl optionally substituted by halogen or pyridyl optionally substituted by halogen; R<sup>5</sup> is lower alkyl or perfluoro lower alkyl; R<sup>6</sup> is lower alkyl and n is 0 or 1.

12. The tetrazole of any of claims 1 to 11 selected from the group consisting of:

- (E)-N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-acrylamide,
- (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,
- (E)-4-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-but-2-enoic acid-thiazol-2-ylamide,
- (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,
- (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,

- (E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-methanesulfonyl-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,
- (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,
- 5 (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,
- (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,
- (E)-N-(5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-
- 10 cycloheptyl-acrylamide,
- (E)-1-{3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl-acryloyl]}-3-methyl-urea,
- N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide,
- 15 N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide,
- N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionamide,
- 3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-
- 20 propionamide,
- 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 25 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,
- 3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-methanesulfonyl-3-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-
- 30 propionamide,

1-(3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionyl-3-methyl-urea, and

1-{2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-propionyl-3-methyl-urea.

5

13. The tetrazole of any of claims 1 to 11 selected from the group consisting of:

N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-propionamide,

10 N-(5-bromo-pyridin-2-yl)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-propionamide,

3-Cyclopentyl-2-[4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-propionamide,

(E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,

15 (E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-trifluoromethyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclohexyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,

(E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide,

20 (E)-N-(5-bromo-thiazol-2-yl)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cycloheptyl-acrylamide,

(E)-2-[3-chloro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-3-cyclopentyl-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide, and

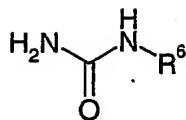
(E)-3-cyclopentyl-2-[3-fluoro-4-(5-methyl-tetrazol-1-yl)-phenyl]-N-thiazol-2-yl-acrylamide.

25

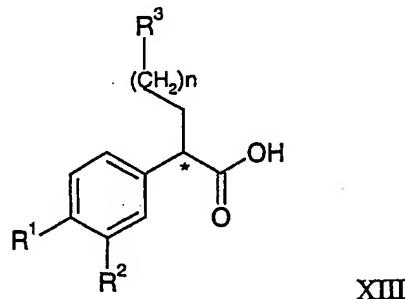
14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of any of claims 1 to 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant.

15. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 14  
30 comprising combining a compound of formula I according to any one of claims 1 to 13 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or adjuvant.

16. The compounds according to any of claims 1 to 13 for use as a therapeutic active substance.
- 5 17. The use of the compounds according to any of claims 1 to 13 for the treatment or prophylaxis of type II diabetes.
18. The use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 13 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of type II diabetes.
- 10 19. A method for the prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of type II diabetes, which method comprises administering a compound of any of claims 1 to 13 to a human being or an animal.
- 15 20. A process for the preparation of a tetrazole according to any of claims 1 to 13, said process comprising:
- (a) coupling a compound of formula
- $$\text{R}^4\text{-NH}_2$$
- wherein  $\text{R}^4$  is a five or six-membered heteroaromatic ring as defined in  $\text{R}^4$  in formula 1,
- 20 to a compound of formula
- 
- XIII
- wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $n$  are as defined in claim 1; or
- 25 (b) coupling a compound of formula

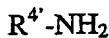


wherein  $\text{R}^6$  is as defined in claim 1,  
to a compound of formula



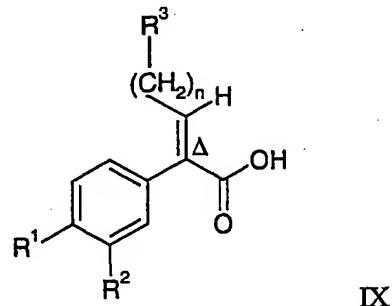
5        wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $n$  are as defined in claim 1; or

(c) coupling a compound of formula



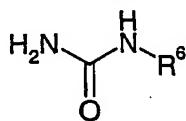
10      wherein  $\text{R}^{4'}$  is a five or six-membered heteroaromatic ring as defined in  $\text{R}^4$  in  
formula 1,

to a compound of formula

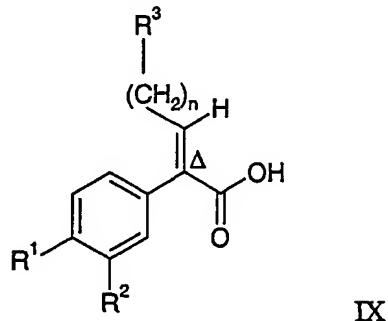


wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$ ,  $\text{R}^3$  and  $n$  are as defined in claim 1; or

15      (d) coupling a compound of formula



wherein R<sup>6</sup> is as defined in claim 1,  
to a compound of formula



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and n are as defined in claim 1.

5

21. A compound prepared by the processes according to claim 20.
22. The invention as hereinbefore defined.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte      final Application No  
PCT/EP 01/09207

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC 7 C07D417/12 C07D401/12 C07D257/04 A61K31/41 A61K31/427  
 A61K31/4427 A61P3/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 IPC 7 C07D A61K A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BEILSTEIN Data, CHEM ABS Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3 776 917 A (MANN T ET AL) 4 December 1973 (1973-12-04) the whole document ----	1,14
A	WO 98 32753 A (MATHVINK ROBERT J ;PARMEE EMMA R (US); TOLMAN SAMUEL (US); WEBER A) 30 July 1998 (1998-07-30) claims ----	1,14-19
P,A	WO 00 58293 A (HOFFMANN LA ROCHE) 5 October 2000 (2000-10-05) claims ----	1,14-20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

Date of mailing of the International search report

14 January 2002

25/01/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Chouly, J

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.1

Although claims 17,19 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.

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Continuation of Box I.1

Claims Nos.: 22

Rule 6.2.a

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intel  
nal Application No  
PCT/EP 01/09207

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 3776917	A	04-12-1973	NONE			
WO 9832753	A	30-07-1998	AU AU BG BR CN EE EP HR HU JP NO PL SK TR WO US ZA	728812 B2 6038498 A 103686 A 9807096 A 1251099 T 9900328 A 0968209 A1 980044 A1 0002053 A2 2001509166 T 993646 A 334833 A1 100099 A3 9902442 T2 9832753 A1 6011048 A 9800647 A		18-01-2001 18-08-1998 30-06-2000 18-04-2000 19-04-2000 15-02-2000 05-01-2000 31-10-1998 28-08-2001 10-07-2001 27-09-1999 27-03-2000 16-05-2000 21-07-2000 30-07-1998 04-01-2000 28-07-1998
WO 0058293	A	05-10-2000	AU WO EP US	3963000 A 0058293 A2 1169312 A2 2001039344 A1		16-10-2000 05-10-2000 09-01-2002 08-11-2001